

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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Shingle Point Residential School
IAP School Narrative
November 12, 2009

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

NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS

Shingle Point Residential School [SPU-000243]¹
Shingle Point Eskimo School [SPU-000003-0001]
St. John's [Anglican Residential] School [SPU-000031; SPU-000055; SPU-000205-0000]
St. John's Eskimo Residential School [SPU-000214]

Years during which the school was operated solely or in part by the Federal Government as a residence for school age students

The Shingle Point Residential School opened September 16th for the final quarters of 1929 [SPU-000003-0001; SPU-000111] and closed on or around August 31, 1936. Students, staff, and provisions are transferred to the newly constructed All Saints Anglican Residential School in Aklavik, which opened September 1936 [AAC-087455²; SPU-000362].

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

- 1922 The Anglican Mission previously established at Herschel Island, Yukon, moves to Shingle Point, Yukon, and continues the delivery of Day Schooling to “natives” who had been relocating to the area from Herschel Island [SPU-000001-0000].
- Attendance Records (Quarterly Returns) for the Shingle Point Mission Day School are filed with the Department of Indian Affairs through the Indian Superintendent at Dawson, Yukon Territory [SPU-000001-0000].
- 1925 Day school classes are held at Shingle Point beginning in October for two families moved in from Akpayuatsiak with two children in attendance only. The Inuit families did not stay over the summer but rather moved on to Herschel Island [AGS-000434].³
- 1926 A petition signed by Inuit parents and presented by Bishop Stringer to the Department of Indian Affairs requests the establishment of a residential school at either Herschel Island or Shingle Point [ASU-000764].⁴

¹ Documents with the prefix SPU are from Northwest Territories Region Shingle Point document collection. These are Crown-sourced documents.

² Documents with the prefix AAC are from the Alberta Region, Anglican Church of Canada Other Party document collection. These are not Crown-sourced documents.

³ Documents with the prefix AGS are from the Northwest Territories Region, Anglican General Synod Other Party document collection. These are not Crown-sourced documents.

⁴ Documents with the prefix ASU are from the Northwest Territories Region Aklavik (All Saints) document collection. These are Crown-sourced documents.

1928 Government approval is obtained for the establishment of an Anglican Residential School at Shingle Point. The Department of the Interior makes \$10,000 available to get the school operational, which would be disbursed to the Church for documented expenditures related to the opening and first year of operation of the School. Only \$5712.81 of the original grant was ultimately spent [SPU-000094; SPU-000105-0000; SPU-000106; SPU-000109; SPU-000192; SPU-000242]. The school is established in part to discontinue transporting Inuit children far from their homes to the school at Hay River, Northwest Territories (N.W.T.) over one thousand miles south [RCN-001588;⁵ SPU-000192]. The Shingle Point Residential School was also to be of a temporary nature until a location was established for a more permanent school for Inuit children [SPU-000094].

1929 The Shingle Point Residential School opens September 16th for the final quarters of 1929 [SPU-000003-0001; SPU-000111].

Filing of Residential School Quarterly Reports commences through the District Agent of the N.W.T. and Yukon Branch of the Department of the Interior in Fort Smith, N.W.T [SPU-000003-0000].

1935 Archbishop Fleming petitions for the unspent portion of the original \$10,000 startup grant (\$4287.19) to be put toward construction of a new Anglican Residential School at Aklavik [SPU-000242; SPU-000325; SPU-000329]. The Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada (M.S.C.C.) meeting minutes indicate that the Deputy Superintendent General (of the Department of Indian Affairs⁶), the Bishop of the Arctic, and the M.S.C.C. General Secretary reached agreement to amalgamate “the Hay River Indian Residential School and the Shingle Point Eskimo Residential School in a new building to be erected in the Mackenzie River Delta” [AGS-000529; AAC-090297].

1936 The Shingle Point Residential School closes on or around August 31, 1936. Students, staff, and provisions are transferred to the newly constructed All Saints Anglican Residential School in Aklavik, which opens September 1936 [AAC-087455; SPU-000362].

The last Quarterly Report filed by the Shingle Point Residential School is for the quarter ending June 30, 1936 [SPU-000026-0001].

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

The Shingle Point Residential School was the first residential school specifically “for Eskimos” in Canada. It was set up as a joint experimental venture between the Anglican Church and the

⁵ Documents with the prefix RCN are from the Northwest Territories Region General document collection. These are Crown-sourced documents.

⁶ Correspondence from the Deputy Superintendent General indicates that grants in support of the provision of schooling would be provided by the “Department of Indian Affairs or of the Interior as the case may be” [AAC-090297].

Federal Government. This effort was spearheaded by A.L. Fleming, Archdeacon of the Arctic [SPU-000091-0000; SPU-000325].

A selection of key documents pertaining to the specific situation at Shingle Point Residential School with respect to its general management structure, student and school funding, and equipment and supply acquisitions are summarized in chronological order below:

- 1929 The Shingle Point Residential School, while located in the Diocese of the Yukon, is managed by the Arctic Mission due to its proximity to the Mackenzie Delta [SPU-000085]. Similarly, the Residential School comes under the auspices of the Department of the Interior (as opposed to Indian Affairs) due to the school's focus on Eskimo education [SPU-000094].
- 1930 The Federal Government indicates that the appropriate procedure for acquiring supplies for the Shingle Point Residential School was for the Church to purchase required items and the Government would subsequently reimburse these purchases [SPU-000122-0000]. The Department agreed to the purchasing of 24 institutional beds with springs, mattresses and pillows, however, supplies such as 25 comforters and six dozen units of dental cream would not be paid for by the Department [SPU-000231]. Correspondence from school staff in 1929 indicates that beds for each school child were delivered to Shingle Point however they were not used at that time as there was not room in the school residence building [AGS-000109].
- 1931 A letter to Archdeacon Fleming from the Director of the Department of the Interior, N.W.T. and Yukon Branch, indicates that the Anglican Church Arctic Mission is reimbursed at a rate of \$50.00 per quarter for each child in the school. If a student was present in the school for less than the full quarter the reimbursement was pro-rated accordingly [SPU-000004-0000].
- 1931 Correspondence between Archdeacon Fleming and the Department of the Interior indicates that the Federal Government both approved and funded transportation of students to and from Shingle Point Residential School prior to 1931 [SPU-000143]. This policy appears to have changed from May 1931, with the Federal Government indicating they would "because of the necessity for strict economy" no longer fund student transportation [SPU-000146; SPU-000355].
- 1932 The issue of funding for Day Pupils [children attending classes but not in living in residence] in Shingle Point educational facilities is raised by Archbishop Fleming, who indicates that it is his desire that they be funded in a manner similar to other Day Schools [SPU-000167]. It appears that a grant of \$100/quarter was paid for Day Pupils to June 1930, but this payment was subsequently rolled into Residential School grants [SPU-000256].
- 1932 While the Anglican Church operated the residential school exclusively, various correspondences suggest that the Federal Government exerted some influence over

admissions because of its control over grant disbursement. Specifically, decisions as to whether students were funded as destitutes were made by Government representatives. These decisions were occasionally were at odds with the wishes of Archdeacon Fleming [SPU-000166; SPU-000167; SPU-000361-0000].

1934 Memorandum reaffirms that the grant paid per annum per pupil (for full year attendance) is \$200 [RCN-000129].

Dates managed by Church

The Shingle Point Residential School itself was managed and operated exclusively by the Anglican Church [RCN-001610; SPU-000325].

The administration of personnel at the residential school rested entirely in the hands of Church authorities, and teaching and administrative staff for the school appear to have been provided directly by the Anglican Church [AAC-090166; RCN-001610; SPU-000100]. The expense for transportation of school staff was also covered by the Church, specifically the Diocese of the Arctic [AGS-000557].

The staff contingent at Shingle Point Residential School consisted of the following [AAC-090166; SPU-000100; AGS-000158]:

- 1 Principal/Administrator (the Anglican Missionary-in-Charge)
- 1 Teacher
- Boys' Matron
- House Matron
- 1 Nurse-Matron
- An unspecified number of additional support staff (likely limited to one or two)

There is conflicting information as to whether the Nurse-Matron posted to Shingle Point was at any time a civil servant paid by the Federal Government⁷. The definitive statement on this covering 1935-36 appears to be that the Shingle Point Nurse position was funded by the Anglican Arctic Mission and the Department of the Interior appears to have compensated this expense [SPU-000111; SPU-000253; SPU-000260; SPU-000305-0001; SPU-000348; RCN-011525].

By 1935, Anglican Church funding was becoming increasingly limited. The Woman's Auxiliary and the Missionary Society of the Church of England (M.S.C.C.) reduced financial grants by twenty and fifty percent respectively. A strategy employed by the Bishop of the Arctic to retain funding for the residential school was to encourage organizations and individuals associated with the Church to sponsor a child at the school [AGS-000191]. The sponsorship of a child at the school involved a payment of fifty dollars a year by an individual or organization for the upkeep of the child while at school [AGS-000540].

⁷ Three Nursing positions existed in the Mackenzie Delta in the 1930s prior to 1935— two at Aklavik and one at Shingle Point. The Federal Government was responsible for the salary of two of these and the Arctic Mission provided the third.

Dates managed by Government

The role of the Federal Government for the early (pre-1955) residential schools in the N.W.T., including Shingle Point, appears to have been largely financial. Ongoing correspondence between the school administration, the Church and various officials of the Federal Government indicate that while the government did not automatically assume the responsibility over costs and supplies, it would nonetheless reimburse the Church for these items when presented with prior requests and formal requisitions. It appears that the government also assisted with arranging (and possibly with the payment of) the transport of these supplies, including food, desks, beds, electrical generators, and lumber.

An internal Department of the Interior memorandum of 1936 indicates that the Shingle Point Eskimo Residential School was the “only school in the Northwest Territories the Department had contributed toward the cost of construction... ..for which the sum of \$10,000 was provided in the 1929-30 Estimates of the Northwest Territories. Of this amount \$5,718.81 was expended on materials, furnishings, etc.” [RCN-004621] This grant established policy for establishing residential schools for Eskimo in the N.W.T. and provided part of the rationale for financial support for the new proposed residential school at Aklavik as the Shingle Point location deemed unsatisfactory [ASU-000836]. The Shingle Point location was considered unsuitable as the buildings were of a temporary nature, the space available on the sand spit that formed Shingle Point was limited, and the water supply was poor. In addition, the Shingle Point location was isolated and far from medical services [SPU-000245-0001].

Prior to 1955 the Government’s authority to administer education in the N.W.T. was divided: the Indian Affairs Department (after 1936 a Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources)⁸ was responsible for Indian education; the Northern Administration Branch of the Department of the Interior was responsible for Inuit education; and the Territorial Government (as it then existed, the Commissioner and N.W.T. Council) was responsible for non-aboriginal education (as administered on behalf of the Commissioner by the Northern Administration Branch).

The Northwest Territories and Yukon Branch of the Department of the Interior, acting under authority granted by the North West Territories Act (Chapter 142, R.S. 1927) passed the School Ordinance responsible for the education of white and “half-breed” populations of the Northwest Territories. The Commissioner of the N.W.T. was responsible to the Minister of the Interior for the administration of the Ordinance [RCN-001610]. Church run schools such as the Shingle Point Residential School were paid grants following the submission of quarterly school attendance returns [RCN-001610]. With the signing of Treaties in 1898 [Treaty 8] and 1921 [Treaty 11], the Department of Indian Affairs “became responsible for the care and education of all Indians in the Mackenzie District of the N.W.T.” [RCN-001610]. Under the provisions of a Government of Canada Order in Council dated August 31, 1927, the Commissioner of the

⁸ The Department of Indian Affairs (1880-1936) became a branch of: the Department of Mines and Resources from 1936-1950, the Department of Citizenship and Immigration from 1936-1950, the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources in 1966, and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development from 1966 to present [<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/indianaffairs/001074-200-e.html?PHPSESSID=450t98mjmtvrka63t0bk0otu52>].

N.W.T. became responsible for the administration of Eskimo Affairs [RCN-001610].

Northwest Territories Council Minutes record that “the same policy with respect to assistance to Mission schools should be followed by both the Department of the Interior and the Department of Indian Affairs” and includes remarks indicating that “there was no difficulty in teaching Eskimo and Indian children in the same school” [RCN-004681].

The Federal Medical Health Officers at Aklavik (including Shingle Point and Hershel Island) were responsible for the sanitary conditions of their districts and internal correspondence of the Department of the Interior from July 1931 indicates “there have been no complaints as regards the conditions of the schools and the general health of the children in these settlements [including Aklavik and Shingle Point] is reported to be fairly good” [RCN-001610].

With the introduction of the new Federal education program in 1955, educational authority in the N.W.T. was consolidated under the Department of Northern Affairs [RCN-010944; RCN-001610].

Role of Territorial Government

Prior to 1955, the role of the Territorial Government in Federal education programs in the N.W.T. was almost exclusively financial. The Territorial Government was responsible for funding aspects of the Federal education programs in proportion to the number of “other” (non-aboriginal and Métis) students enrolled in of the various schools in operation in the N.W.T. (i.e., all mission residential schools, mission day schools, Federal day schools, etc.) [RCN-007765]. This ethnic distinction was based on the Federal Government’s constitutional responsibility for expenses related to the education of Treaty Indian students and the assumption of that responsibility for Inuit students [RCN-001610].

The role of the government of the Northwest Territories, financially and otherwise, is reflected in the Northwest Territories Council involvement in decisions concerning funding to educational enterprises in the N.W.T. [SPU-000247]. For example, in 1930 the N.W.T. Council recommended “the practice of paying freight charges on bales clothing, etc., sent to Eskimo residential schools, be continued” [SPU-000231].

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

1929 The Shingle Point Residential School opened in 1929, incorporating a number of existing buildings in the Shingle Point settlement, including:

- Refurbished facilities (store and residence) that were owned but unoccupied by the Hudson Bay Company [SPU-000091-0000; SPU-000094]. The Hudson Bay Company “granted permission to use their dwelling house” in 1929 [SPU-000095; SPU-000231]. Correspondence from the school staff from 1929, indicate the Hudson Bay building (the Post Manager’s former home [AGS-000343-0001]), required substantial labor to clean and restore for habitation, and was then divided into four rooms: a small bedroom for the staff, another room for female students

to sleep in, a dining room, and a kitchen [AGS-000109]. A room attached to the dwelling house, but with no doorway connecting the interior of the house, was used as a washroom and included a stove [AGS-000109].

- Former trading post buildings of Liebes and Company including a warehouse building with walls of corrugated iron on a wooden framework fitted with shelves and counters [SPU-000370]. In 1922, during the initial establishment of the Mission at Shingle Point, one of the Liebes and Company buildings was made into a workshop [AGS-000403]. The H. Liebes and Company buildings at Shingle Point were sold to the Anglican Bishop of the Yukon Diocese in 1925 for \$750 [SPU-000372-0000; SPU-000372-0001].
- Existing Shingle Point Mission facilities [SPU-000192] including the Mission House (see undated photograph [SPU-000367]), measuring approximately 12 by 22 feet with one room, kitchen., and bedroom on the main floor, an upstairs bedroom and storeroom with a log 'lean-to' constructed on the side of the house [SPU-000379].
- Shingle Point Mission's St. John's church, a building 34 feet long with finished walls and floor, and furnished with a table, lectern, organ, and 18 pews [SPU-000370]. Photographs of Shingle Point include the log church with steeple and bell visible [SPU-000368; SPU-000369]. The church was used as the school room with the church pews located on one side of the building and school desks on the other [AGS-000343-0001].
- Two log cabins belonging to Eskimos [SPU-000192]. There is no documentation indicating that any fee was paid to the owners for this use, and no information is available concerning the specific owners or ultimate disposition of these log cabins.

The Shingle Point Residential School was not intended to be a permanent educational facility, so no new buildings were constructed prior to its opening or during its operational years [SPU-000094; SPU-000192; SPU-000325].

Permission to occupy existing Hudson Bay Company facilities was officially granted in January 1929, with no stated expiry of this permission [SPU-000095]. It is presumed that these premises and lands would have reverted back to Hudson Bay Company control when the school closed in 1936, though no specific information is available indicating that in fact happened.

LAND

Shingle Point is located on the coast of Beaufort Sea [Arctic Ocean] approximately 110 miles west of Aklavik and the Mackenzie Delta, midway between Aklavik and Herschel Island at 68.95 N latitude and 137.22 W longitude. It is not located within an Indian Treaty District.

1928 Shingle Point was initially selected as a location for a school for two reasons:

- (1) There was a pressing need to establish a school for Eskimos in their own traditional territory (Eskimo students of Anglican persuasion were currently sent 900 miles south to the Hay River Residential School) [SPU-000325; SPU-000192];
- (2) A school in the Mackenzie Delta region was to be located at a point that both river and ocean boat traffic could reach. Explorations were in progress to identify such a location, but as of 1928 it had not been determined. Shingle Point was proposed as a temporary Residential School site until the desired location could be identified and a school constructed there [SPU-000091-0000; SPU-000094].

The establishment of the Shingle Point Residential School prompted a full Government survey of the community to establish legal land parcels.

1929 The town site was surveyed by S. Hunt at the instruction of Surveyor General in order to formalize the lay out of Shingle Point settlement. Bishop Geddes of the Anglican Mission was to select the site for the school⁹ [SPU-000100; SPU-000101; SPU-000102-0001].

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

Item #	Date	Description
AAC-090166	00/00/0000	Photograph of Church, Mission House, and Principal's residence, Shingle Point
SPU-000367	00/00/0000	Photograph of the Shingle Point Mission House
SPU-000368	00/00/0000	Photograph of Shingle Point
SPU-000369	00/00/0000	Three photographs of Shingle Point
AGS-000110	09/07/1929	Sketch of converted Hudson's Bay Company dwelling house
DYK-201368 ¹⁰	05/00/1930	Photograph of St. John's Church and Mission House, Shingle Point; St. John's Church interior photograph
AGS-000202	00/0000/1936	Shingle Point Eskimo Residential School

GENERAL ENROLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

Year	Number of Students
1929-30	23 children in residence
1930-31	33 children in residence
1931-32	44 children in residence
1932-33	36 students in residence

⁹ It is not clear what Bishop Geddes was to be selecting in that (as far as is known) no new lands were acquired or buildings constructed in relation to the establishment of Shingle Point Residential School.

¹⁰ Documents with the prefix DYK are from the Yukon Region, Anglican Diocese of the Yukon Other Party document collection. These are not Crown-sourced documents.

1933-34	38 students in residence
1934-35	29 students in residence
1935-36	30 students in residence

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

In general, attendance in N.W.T. mission residential schools was not reserved-based as enrolment was not ethnically segregated (both aboriginal and non-aboriginal children lived in residence and attended the associated schools). Attendance was based on geographic proximity to the residence and the associated schools were attended both by students in residence and by children living in the local community.

However, with respect to Shingle Point, the school was intended to provide education specifically to Inuit children, since prior to its opening no [Anglican] facilities existed in the Mackenzie Delta for the instruction of Inuit children. Inuit children from the Delta had previously been sent to the Anglican Residential School at Hay River on the south shore of Great Slave Lake [SPU-000325; SPU-000231]. The opening of the Shingle Point Residential School allowed for a return of these Inuit children to their traditional territory [SPU-000192].

Documents indicate that students in residence at Shingle Point were “sent from hundreds of miles along the [Arctic] coast”, including Banks Land and King William Land, and “various points scattered over the whole of the Western Arctic Coast” [SPU-000167].

Applications for Admission to Shingle Point Residential School cite the following locations as origin communities for students:

Aklavik	Mackenzie Delta
Bernard Harbour	Prince Albert Sound
Coppermine	Read Island
Herschel Island	Rymer Point
Krusenstern	Wilmot Islands

There may be alternate ways of spelling these location names.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

No specific religious groups are identified as associated with the Shingle Point Residential School other than the Anglican Church as indicated throughout this report.

1928 The Shingle Point Residential School was set up through the direct personal efforts and involvement of Archdeacon/Bishop Archibald Lang Fleming of the Arctic Mission in Toronto, who petitioned for financing and infrastructural resources from the Federal Government [SPU-000091-0000; SPU-000325; SPU-000343].

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

No formal operating agreement for the Shingle Point Residential School has been identified in currently held collections.

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at the Shingle Point Residential School or of any convicted abusers present at the school.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General Conditions

- 1931 The school operated almost entirely during the years of the Great Depression when the “necessity for strict economy” prevailed within the Federal Government [SPU-000146].
- 1933 A fire in the Acting Principal’s residence destroyed a number of records, including school attendance and admission records. Replacements (previously submitted copies on file with the Federal Government in Ottawa) were provided to the Arctic Mission as replacements for these lost records [SPU-000206].
- 1933 Transporting supplies by boat to remote locales was a chronic problem in the North, as it was at Shingle Point specifically [SPU-000215; SPU-000247; SPU-000274].
- Correspondence from the residential school staff reported the death of a male student due to illness; the boy was taken to the Aklavik hospital and was residing at the hospital at the time of his death [AGS-000491].
- 1934 Shingle Point Residential School was described as “efficiently operated but location unsatisfactory and unsanitary” [SPU-000242].
- 1936 The Admission and Discharge record for the quarter ending March 31, 1936, records the death of a student, age 10 years [SPU-000062]. No further details of the conditions of the student’s death are included other than that the student had attended the school for a period of over two years.

Health and Sanitary Conditions

- 1930 On a number of occasions, the school received a donation of clothing from the Women’s Auxiliary of the Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada [SPU-000113-0001]. The Federal Government reimbursed the M.S.C.C. for shipping costs [SPU-000120; SPU-000124].
- 1930 Drug requisitions were shipped to the school, and these were dispensed by the Nurse-Matron at the Anglican Mission throughout the existence of the school [SPU-000119-0000; SPU-000119-0001; SPU-000231].
- 1931 As of 1931, no medical exams of admitted children had been conducted. The nearest doctor capable of conducting these examinations was in Aklavik, and despite having visited Shingle Point previously, had not conducted the required exams. Correspondence

from the Archdeacon of the M.S.C.C. indicates that a doctor had not visited to examine the children, although a doctor had been requested, and agreed to come. Further the Archdeacon advises that during the entire operation of the Shingle Point Residential School (up to the close of 1931) a doctor had made only one visit during the winter months, in the first winter, “when he stayed for about one hour only. He has come each summer by boat, but by that time the children had departed” [SPU-000167].

- 1932 Correspondence from the school staff indicates a doctor visited Shingle Point “to examine the school children in order that we can send in some forms to the government which should have been done ages ago” [AGS-000520].
- 1933 The school was closed for a week in October owing to an outbreak of pneumonia among students and staff [AGS-000492]. A doctor was requested from Aklavik and arrived by plane. The doctor, after examining a number of the children and staff, returned to the Aklavik hospital with one ill student and one staff member [AGS-000492]. Both the staff member and student returned to Shingle Point in January 1934 [AGS-000501].
- 1934 The water supply at Shingle Point is described as “bad” by the presiding doctor [Dr. Urquhart] at Aklavik [SPU-000243].

The distance of Shingle Point from proper medical attention was cited as one rationale for closing the school in favor of construction of a new Anglican Residential School at Aklavik [SPU-000243; SPU-000274].

- 1935 Correspondence from Shingle Point staff indicates that in April 1935 Doctor Head visited from Aklavik and “examined some of the children”, and in particular one child who had nearly died earlier in the year as a result of a hemorrhage but was now doing well [AGS-000528]. Also reported in correspondence was that school staff made flannelette pajama suits for the boys and also instructed senior girls to make clothing for the school students [AGS-000528]. The school children were provided with new clothing for Easter; the boys were provided pants, ties, sweaters and shoes, and the girls ‘second hand’ dresses from the clothing bales in the warehouse (presumably from clothing donated to the Anglican Missionary Society), new ‘atikluks’ [a cloth overcoat often including a gathered skirt attached on the bottom], and shoes [AGS-000528].

The Quarterly Report for the quarter ending September 30, 1935, includes remarks indicating low attendance was a result of an epidemic of measles [SPU-000023]. Correspondence from the School Deaconess of November 1935 indicates the measles epidemic had ended with quarantines being lifted, a special thanksgiving celebration, and regular winter activities resumed [AGS-000542].

- 1936 One female student died December 1935 after a short illness. She had experienced a hemorrhage the previous winter and this was considered by school staff to have been a contributing factor in her death [AGS-000547]. A report from the Aklavik All Saints Mission of February 1936 indicates this student’s death was due to typhoid. The body of the deceased student was transported to Aklavik where her parents resided [AGS-000205].

Diet and Nutrition

- 1929 Pemmican was requested to be sent to Shingle Point to provide a stable food supply during times when game was not available in the vicinity [SPU-000097]. The reply from the Government indicated that they no longer produced pemmican but rather dried buffalo meat, and that all dried buffalo meat was being sent entirely to eastern Arctic locations. As a result, no food assistance was available in 1929 [SPU-000098]. In 1935, 1000 pounds of dried buffalo meat was sent to Shingle Point as emergency rations [SPU-000293].
- 1932 The Mission staff fished and stored fish for the winter and in previous years also hunted caribou. However, the caribou herd departed from the Shingle Point region in 1932 and Mission staff reported that, with careful consumption of stored fish, they would have sufficient supplies until spring. Occasional rice and fresh vegetables were purchased in Aklavik, and other stored food goods at Shingle point, or available at Herschel Island, included flour, oatmeal, 'hard-tack', molasses, butter, rice, and beans [AGS-000180].
- 1933 The depletion of local terrestrial game and thus sustainable local food supply was addressed by the Federal Government, who intended to bring a herd of caribou into the area. Students educated at the school were to be trained and employed as herd managers, a suggestion made by Archbishop Fleming [SPU-000192].
- 1934 There were acute periods of shortness of food supplies at the school, and the surrounding area was characterized as harsh and subject to game shortages, offering little relief when stores drew low. The federal Inspector reported "conditions on the Coast are very bad this year due both in some measure to the non-arrival of the Hudson's Bay steamer last year", the distance of the government reindeer herd, and "the fact that no seal or caribou have been procurable throughout the major portion of the year" [SPU-000215].
- 1935 Correspondence from Shingle Point staff indicated a greater supply of 'fresh' food from the previous year: "We are already anticipating the coming of the ducks to vary our diet, although we have been very well off for fresh food here this year, more so than last" [AGS-000528].
- 1936 The reindeer herd introduced to Canada by the federal government provided supplemental food supplies to the Shingle Point Residential School as well as the school and hospital at Aklavik [AGS-000202; AGS-000542].

Curriculum

Limited discussion of the curriculum that was implemented at Shingle Point is contained in the documentation available. Some specific statements are available that address elements of pedagogy and scholastic content in context of the (rapidly changing) local socio-economic situation in the Mackenzie Delta at the time:

- 1931 The Archdeacon of the Arctic, in the Missionary Society of the Church of England Triennial Report, describes the school curriculum [AGS-000158]:

In the school the children are given an elementary education and taught the rudiments of health and sanitation and such other things as will be of service to them after they leave school. In order that they may not be less efficient in the ordinary arts and crafts necessary

for daily life in the Arctic, the boys take part in hunting the wild life, make nets, handle boats, etc., etc., while the girls are taught those things that will enable them to be of the best type of citizens possible in the Arctic. Underneath all the teaching there is a definite effort made to lead the children to a true understanding of the love of God...

- 1932 Correspondence from the Archdeacon to the Commissioner, Deputy Minister N.W.T. and Yukon Branch, Department of the Interior, describes the curriculum as including [RCN-011509]:

The rudiments of education, teaching [the Inuit children] cleanliness and sanitation, as well as to read, write, count, understand the value of money, and the like. Our plan is primarily to so train the children that they shall be disciplined in mind and body. In order to do this we believe that religion has a very definite and invaluable place.

I would like to explain further that we are most anxious not to unfit the Eskimo for the life which he must lead under ordinary circumstances in the Arctic. With this end in view the boys are taught to hunt... as well as make nets, catch the fish, dry them... And the girls are taught cooking, how best to utilize everything that comes to them, and in many other ways to become suitable citizens in Eskimo settlements in the days to come. The fact that we have two Eskimo hunters at the School who take the boys hunting and fishing, etc., and two Eskimo women who teach the girls to sew boots, clothes, etc., is sufficient proof of the seriousness of our intention regarding these matters.

- 1933 Following the discovery that the Federal Government was planning to move a herd of caribou into the area as an additional resource, Archdeacon Fleming suggests a training program be instituted at Shingle Point RS whereby graduates of the school would apprentice with Government reindeer herd managers to ultimately obtain employment in this capacity [SPU-000192; SPU-000247].

- 1934 The Doctor at Aklavik, J.A. Urquhart, indicates in a report to the Department of the Interior that academic instruction should be very much limited to the “original Three R’s” (that is, reading, writing, arithmetic) and the manual arts [SPU-000243].

The ideal age for graduation for boys from Shingle Point was (in the opinion of the Doctor at Aklavik) 12 years, since he felt that at that time these students would of necessity have to return to a trapping and hunting way of life, and that from the age of 12 they should be learning traditional techniques with their fathers. The age of graduation for girls should be 15, he states, as it is between 12 and 15 that girls readily learn housewife skills, which can be taught in schools to solve the “sanitary problems” of aboriginal peoples [SPU-000243].

- 1944 In addition to the above specific statements, a more general description of the curriculum taught in Mission Schools in the North [dated April 24, 1944] notes:

The Alberta curriculum is taught in most of the residential schools in the Mackenzie District of the N.W.T. In the Eastern Arctic where the population is almost exclusively Eskimo the Missionaries teach a few elementary subjects including reading, writing, drawing, etc. [RCN-001745-0001].

Over-Crowding

- 1933 School staff report in correspondence that “[o]ur school is more crowded than ever this year. I have twenty girls in the space which last year seemed overfull with eighteen”, “the children sleep two in a bed, and I have three girls in one at present” [AGS-000491].
- 1934 The school is described as “badly overcrowded” by the presiding doctor at Aklavik [SPU-000243].

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Shepherd, H. Sherman, Reverend	Administrator and Principal	1929 to 1933 and 1934 to 1936
Webster, J.H., Reverend	Acting Administrator and Principal	1933 to 1934

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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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