

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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SHINGWAUK IRS School Narrative

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

NAME OF SCHOOL and VARIANTS

SHINGWAUK RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL or

- Shingwauk Home
- Shingwauk Hall
- Shingwauk Hostel
- Shingwauk House
- Shingwauk School
- Shingwauk Anglican Indian Residential School
- Shingwauk Indian Residential School
- Shingwauk Industrial Residential School
- Shingwauk Hall Residential School
- Shingwauk Student Residence
- Shingwauk Hall Student Residence

Note: Shingwauk was established as an Industrial School.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

Opening Date(s): _____ September 22, 1873; August 2, 1875; October 3, 1935

When the first Shingwauk Home opened on September 22, 1873, 15 pupils (boys and girls) were present. However, on September 28, 1873, the Shingwauk Home burned to the ground, just six days after opening [SWK-1286].

In October, 1874, work was recommenced with 18 children, boys and girls, who, with their matron and teacher, occupied a frame building temporarily for the winter. On August 2, 1875, the present Shingwauk Home was publicly opened [SWK-1286].

In 1877, the Algoma Missionary News and Shingwauk Journal reported that land had been purchased at Sault Ste. Marie as a site for a new home for girls, about 2 ½ miles from Shingwauk. It was proposed to call the school the Wawanosh Home [SWK-1281].

Upon completion of the building on August 19, 1879, Wawanosh was opened. The first wing of Wawanosh, was occupied by Indian girls during the past year. The government allowed a grant of \$600 per annum for the education, support and industrial training of fifteen girls. The girls were instructed in reading, writing, arithmetic, and Christian principals. They were also taught domestic duties (i.e., cooking, washing, ironing, etc.). Wawanosh was operated for about twelve years, until Shingwauk was enlarged and the girls were transferred there [1933 - SWK-1261]. [See also 1880 - SWK-0928; 1881 - SWK-1285; SWK-0929; 1882 - SWK-0821; SWK-1286].

A new building, situated behind the old Shingwauk Home, was built in 1934, as it was believed that the old school was beyond repair [SWK-1452a]. The new school was completed and opened officially on October 3, 1935 [SWK-0345, SWK-0348; SWK-0352a].

Closing Date: _____ June 30, 1970

The Shingwauk Student Residence was closed on June 30, 1970 [Documents agree, eg. SWK-1840, SWK-1578, SWK-0987].

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Dates managed by Church

Opening to April 1, 1969

See regulations for the Shingwauk Home for the years 1885 and 1886 [SWK-1287; SWK-1288].

The Shingwauk Residential School, though built by the Government [in 1935], was operated by the Missionary Society of the Church of England. A per capita grant was paid annually by the government on the understanding that food, clothing and instruction would be provided by the church authorities [SWK-1486b].

Dates managed by Government

April 1, 1969 to June 30, 1970

All faculty and staff were hired by the Anglican Church of Canada until April 1, 1969, when the government assumed these responsibilities regarding education [SWK-1452a (1980)].

With the recommendation that Shingwauk should close at the end of the 1970 school year, discussion arose regarding the disposition of the school property. A memorandum between government officials, states that the property on which the residence was located was registered in the name of the Algoma Diocese and that the government had use of that land, together with the Federal building, on a rent free basis during the operation of the residence [SWK-0277].

With the pending closure of Shingwauk, the Archbishop of Algoma brought to the governments' attention, the May, 1935 agreement between The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Algoma and the government specifying how the lands should be disposed of, if and when Shingwauk should close [SWK-1004]. [See also SWK-1578].

Dates taken over by province

Not Applicable

Dates managed by Band or other aboriginal group

Not Applicable

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Date School Buildings Owned by Church: Opening to May 29, 1935

The Shingwauk Home and the land occupied are owned by the Diocese of Algoma. In 1930, plans were under way for the transfer of the property to the government, but they were not completed [SWK-1261].

Date School Building Owned by Government: May 29, 1935 to October 22, 1971

In 1935, the government entered into an agreement with the Anglican Church of Canada to use a parcel of land comprising approximately 90 acres and located in the city of Sault Ste. Marie. The agreement stated that the property would be used as a residence for Indian pupils and that the government would construct whatever buildings were necessary to ensure this purpose [SWK-1456]. In 1935, the government built the new Shingwauk Indian Residential School on the property [Documents agree, eg. SWK-0343; SWK-0611; SWK-0344]. The old Shingwauk building was demolished [SWK-0605].

The 1935 agreement stipulated that when the government ceased to use the land to maintain a residential school for Indian children, they would pay to the Synod "...the then fair market value of the lands...but in ascertaining said value of said lands no allowance shall be made to the Synod for the value of any building or buildings erected on said lands by His Majesty" [SWK-1454a].

Date School Building Transferred to the Church: October 22, 1971

As per the 1935 agreement, when Shingwauk closed on June 30, 1970, the government was liable to pay to the Synod a sum of \$341, 500.00, the valued price of the land in an appraisal dated August 28, 1970 [SWK-1455].

At the time of closure, the school building was valued at \$272, 000.00. The Synod of the Diocese of

Algoma of the Anglican Church of Canada passed a resolution requesting that all of the land and buildings be transferred to them to fully settle the 1935 agreement [SWK-1456]. It was agreed that instead of paying the Church for the property, the government would transfer the property and the buildings back to the Church at no cost, thereby fulfilling any obligation the government might have had under the 1935 agreement [SWK-1455]. The land transfer was authorized by the Governor General in Council on February 23, 1971 (P.C. 1971-2/339) [SWK-1456]. The transfer of the land and buildings to the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Algoma for one dollar became official on October 22, 1971 [SWK-1457a; SWK-1458a].

The church located on the grounds at Shingwauk that was used almost exclusively by the pupils and staff at the school was retained by the Church and actually was not included in the premises of the student residence [1970 - SWK-1001].

LAND

Location

The first Shingwauk Home, which opened on September 22, 1873 (and burned down six days later), was located at Garden River [SWK-1286].

Most Principal's Annual Reports dated after 1907 specify that the Shingwauk Home was situated on the bank of the St. Mary's River, one and one half miles east of the central part, and within the town limits of Sault Ste. Marie, the area of land consisting of 93 acres, comprising park lots one and two in Tarentorus township [SWK-0852; SWK-0854; SWK-0855].

Dates Land Owned by Church:

Opening to May 29, 1935; October 22, 1971 [see "Date Land Transferred Back to the Church"]

On February 8, 1875, the Reverend E.F. Wilson deeded in trust 90 ½ acres of land, on which the Shingwauk Home is built, to the Bishop of Algoma, and to his successors in office, for the benefit of the said Shingwauk Home [SWK-1284].

In 1910, Reverend E.F. Wilson quit claims to the land in the usual form to The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Algoma. Some doubt had arisen as to the power of the Synod to mortgage or sell the lands comprising Shingwauk, and Reverend Wilson gave the quit claim with a clause consenting to the conveyance of the lands to the Synod in fee simple and releasing same from all restrictions, trusts and conditions in the deed made by him to Bishop Fauquier in 1875. The result of the conveyances was to vest the property comprising Shingwauk in The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Algoma without same being subject to any trust [SWK-1587 (1930)].

Land was acquired by purchase by Church of England authorities and held in trust by His Lordship the Bishop of Algoma [SWK-0852; SWK-0854; SWK-0855].

Date Land Transferred to Government: May 29, 1935 - October 22, 1971

Plans were proposed in 1929 for the Church to transfer the property to the government, but were not completed [SWK-1588, SWK-1261].

On May 29, 1935, the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Algoma and the government entered into an agreement where the Anglican Church transferred to the government a parcel of land so that the government might construct a student residence [SWK-1455]. The 90 ½ acres of land were to be held by the government "...to be used solely for the purpose of maintaining thereon a residential school for Indian children to be called 'The Shingwauk Indian Residential School.'" The agreement stipulated that if and whenever the government ceased to use the land for the purpose of maintaining a residential school for Indian children, the government "...shall pay to the Synod the then fair market value of the lands herein before conveyed..." [SWK-1454a].

The government had use of the land, together with the Federal building on a rent-free basis for the operation of the residence with the option to purchase the land, effective the date the administration of the residence transferred from the Church to the government [SWK-1577].

Date Land Transferred back to the Church: October 22, 1971

As per the 1935 agreement, when the Shingwauk Student Residence closed on June 30, 1970, the government became legally liable to pay the Church the amount of \$341, 500.00 - the value placed on the land in an appraisal by the Veterans' Land Act Administration dated August 28, 1970 [SWK-1456]. Since the government no longer required the property, they negotiated with the Anglican Church to determine an alternative way to bring the transaction to a conclusion that would satisfy both parties [SWK-1455]. The Synod of the Diocese of Algoma of the Anglican Church of Canada passed a resolution requesting the transfer of all the land and buildings to fully settle the 1935 agreement [SWK-1456]. It was agreed that instead of paying the Church for the property, the government would transfer the property and the buildings [see "School Buildings" section of the report for further details re buildings] back to the Church at no cost, thereby fulfilling any obligation the government might have had under the 1935 agreement [SWK-1455]. The land transfer was authorized by the Governor General in Council on February 23, 1971 (P.C. 1971-2/339) [SWK-1456].

On May 14, 1971, the Government leased to The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Algoma, for \$1.00, "...that certain parcel or tract of land...which is generally known as Shingwauk Hall Indian Student Residence." The lease was for a term of one year from June 1, 1971, or until the property was legally transferred to the Synod [SWK-1459b].

The transfer of some 50.056 acres of land to the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Algoma for one dollar became official on October 22, 1971 [SWK-1457a; SWK-1458a].

PHOTOS, PLANS and OTHER MEDIA

DATE	DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENTATION
Undated	Plan of property near Shingwauk.	SWK-1640a
Undated	Home for infirm and aged Indians to be attached to the industrial school.	SWK-1876a
Undated	Map of Shingwauk school land.	SWK-2079b
Undated	Telephone cables at Shingwauk.	SWK-2086a
1887	Map showing the layout of the buildings at Shingwauk.	SWK-1903
1889	Map of Shingwauk Home.	SWK-1451
1889	Site plan of Shingwauk and the adjoining Stratton property.	SWK-1905
1890	Plan for the proposed extension to Shingwauk Home.	SWK-1909
1890	Plan for a new drill shed and assembly room.	SWK-1909a
1890	Diagram of Shingwauk.	SWK-1910b
1934	Plan of Shingwauk Home property.	SWK-1639
1938	Basement Plan of Shingwauk building.	SWK-1663
1948	Sketch of thermostat.	SWK-1707a
1949	Sketch of proposed workshop.	SWK-1143a
1952	Sketch of a proposed entrance roof at Shingwauk.	SWK-1223a
1952	Site plan showing proposed location of septic tank for Shingwauk.	SWK-1708a
1964	Sketch showing locations of Public Schools in Sault Ste. Marie.	SWK-1807
1966	Drawing of principal's residence.	SWK-0548
1966	Diagram of the hot water system at Shingwauk.	SWK-2182a
1967	A diagram of the scene where a car struck down two Shingwauk students.	SWK-1478f
1968	Drawing of area to be paved at Shingwauk	SWK-2207c
1971	Map of the Shingwauk property	SWK-2089

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada
The Synod of the Diocese of Algoma (Anglican Church of Canada)

Episcopal Church

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

- 1911 Agreement between the Government and the Reverend George Thomeloe, Bishop of the Diocese of Algoma (the "Management"), for the operation of the Shingwauk and Wawanosh Homes. The Management agreed to maintain and educate, in a manner satisfactory to the Superintendent General, the Boarding School at Sault Ste. Marie known as the Shingwauk and Wawanosh Homes [SWK-1298].
- 1935 Agreement between The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Algoma and the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, in which it is stated that Shingwauk "...shall be under the management and control of the Synod" [SWK-1454a. Note that this document will be found under a cover letter dated March 19, 1970].
- 1956 Joint School Agreement between the Government and the Board of Education of Sault Ste. Marie [SWK-1000a].
- 1959 Joint School Agreement between the Government and the Board of Education of Sault Ste. Marie at Anna McCrea Public School [SWK-0996, SWK-2165a].
- 1962 Agreement between the Anglican Church and the Government, with regard to the operation of Shingwauk [SWK-1383a].
- 1966 Agreement Government and the Sault Sainte Marie Board of Education to lease a classroom at Shingwauk [SWK-0265b].
- 1971 Lease transferring Shingwauk property to the Anglican Diocese of Algoma [SWK-1459b].

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at Shingwauk 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)

- ca. 1916 Documents concerning alleged sexual abuse by former student perpetrated by principal. No fault was attributed to the principal. [SWK-1531d, SWK-1401a, SWK-1401b, SWK-1401, SWK-1402, SWK-1405, SWK-1406, See also SWK-1403; SWK-1404].

Incidents (Physical)

- October, 1944 A couple of students ran away from Shingwauk. When asked, the students stated that they ran away because the farm instructor abuses them, makes them work like men, and at times, chases them with a pitch-fork. [SWK-1527]. [See also SWK-1525].

Incidents (Student on Student)

- ca. February 1958 An application was made for the approval of the discharge of a student, due to sexual assaults perpetrated by him against female students at Shingwauk [SWK-1556a].
- August, 1959 An application was made for the discharge of a student "...on the grounds of deliberate, malicious and dangerous cruelty to a younger boy. [SWK-1529b]. [See also SWK-1529; SWK-1529a; SWK-1529c; SWK-1530].
- 1960 Permission was granted to discharge a student "...who is a bully and a brute, disregards any direction from the staff and only recently beat up a smaller boy using his feet to kick him about" [SWK-1567; SWK-1567a]. In the application for

his discharge, it is noted that "...the most serious aspect was his practice of cruelly bullying smaller boys" [SWK-1569b]. The principal also remarked that the student had set fire to a bedspread on another boy's bed, by carelessly dropping a match on some paper, and that he "...had beaten a smaller boy about the shoulders and head while on the way to church on Sunday." A supervisor reported that the student had been hurting another small boy. [SWK-1569c; SWK-1572b (duplicates, except for attachments)].

Other documents related to suggestions of abuse

1964 A father wrote to the Chapleau Indian Agency to apologize because his daughter did not go back to Shingwauk. "As she didn't want to go back to Shingwauk. She wanted to board out very bad. She said that she wasn't treated good there. She was going to go back alright if she was to board out. So this is all I have to say" [SWK-0520].

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ca. June 1902 Document reporting the abduction of two girls from Shingwauk [SWK-1439b]. Correspondence regarding this abduction suggested that "[i]t is supposed his object was to get the girls away to Duluth for immoral purposes" [SWK-1472]. [See also SWK-1439].

September, 1915 A mother wrote to the government complaining of the conditions she found her children in at Shingwauk, with respect to the presence of lice, quality of clothing, hygiene and lack of eye care [SWK-1398].

October, 1942 A father wrote to the Indian Agent at Sault Ste. Marie to request that the Agent investigate the complaint brought to his attention regarding his children who were attending Shingwauk. He wrote that his children "...are mistreated also improperly dress [sic] for this cold weather. [SWK-0511].

In response to the letter, Indian Agent R.P.G. Laurence advised that he had looked into the complaints, but found no reason for them. However, he also suggested that at the time of his visit, it was a warm day and that the children in question both had underwear on. [SWK-0510].

1954 In the Principal's request to discharge a student, he reported that the boy had been consistently rude to members of the Staff, and is well-known as a bully to smaller boys. The Principal wrote, "...was reported to me for hitting a smaller boy and spitting in his face" [SWK-0662b]. [See also SWK-0664; SWK-0662; SWK-0662a; SWK-0662c; SWK-0659].

Two people went to another individual's home to pick up a pupil from Shingwauk. The boy stated that he did not like the supervisor at the Residential School. [SWK-0660].

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Principals:

1873 - March 1, 1893	Reverend E.F. Wilson
March 1, 1893 - ca. August, 1894?	Reverend James Irvine
September, 1894 - October 11, 1894	Principalship vacant
October 11, 1894 - ca. June 1895?	James Lawler
ca. June, 1895? - 1910	George Ley King
1910 - September 1929	Reverend Benjamin P. Fuller

October 1929 - October, 1941?	Reverend Charles F. Hives
November 1941 - January 1942?	A.B. Hives, Acting Principal
1942 -1948	Reverend Canon Arthur E. Minchin
1948 - December 1953	Reverend D.C. Wickenden
January 1954 - December 1964	Reverend Roy Phillips
December 1964 - December 30, 1964	Robert Martin
December 30, 1964 - March 15, 1965	James Foulds
March 15, 1965 - August 1, 1965	Robert Martin
August 1965 - March 1967	David Lawson

Administrators:

April 1967 - May 1968	Allan Wheatley
May 1968 - June 1970	Reverend Noel Goater

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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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