

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.

**St. Anne's (Fort Albany) Indian Residential School
IAP School Narrative**

NAME IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (Schedule E/F)

St. Anne's (Fort Albany)

OTHER NAMES KNOWN AS (AKAs)

- 1906 to 1939; 1959 Albany Mission [¹FTA-000118; FTA-000150; FTA-000067]
- 1908 to 1954 Albany Mission Roman Catholic Boarding School [FTA-000119, pg. 4; FTA-000269]
- 1926 to 1966 [Fort] Albany Indian Residential School [FTA-035129; FTA-000810-0001; FTA-000715; FTA-000894-0074]
- 1966 to 1972 St. Ann[e]'s Residential School [FTA-003602; FTA-000429, pg. 2]
- 1969 to 1976 Fort Albany Student Residence [FTA-001312-0000; FTA-000508; FTA-002524; FTA-000584; FTA-000582-0001]

LOCATION

- 1906 to 1932 The IRS was originally located off reserve at Fort Albany Mission, on Albany Island, situated east of the Hudson's Bay Company post and four to five miles from the James Bay coast, in the James Bay Treaty Region (Treaty 9) [FTA-000643; FTA-000118; FTA-000119, pg. 4; FTA-000127, pg. 5].
- 1932 to 1976 The new IRS site was located one mile from the junction of the Albany and Yellow Rivers, and approximately four miles south of the original IRS site. Though plans to move the IRS had begun in the early 1920s, the new IRS building was first occupied on April 11, 1932, and was completed in 1933 [FTA-000617; FTA-000618; FTA-000624; FTA-001484; ²OPP-000236, pg. 8; OPP-002060-0000, pg. 1; OPP-002054-0001, pg. 2].
- After the IRS burned down in 1939, a new IRS building was constructed nearby on the same Roman Catholic Mission site, southeast of the one destroyed by the fire, across a small stream joined to the other side by a bridge [FTA-000625; FTA-000626; FTA-000627].

PROVINCE/TERRITORY

Ontario

OPERATING DATES AS AN INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

These dates represent the time during which the Government of Canada was responsible for the operation of the Indian Residential School, excluding any periods of closure.

July 1, 1906 to June 30, 1976

OPERATING DATES CONTEXT

The St. Anne's (Fort Albany) IRS began to receive federal government support on July 1, 1906 [FTA-000118; MER-001242, pg. 5]. In September 1965, the federal government assumed direct control of the IRS educational component [FTA-000152-0000; FTA-000152-0001; FTA-000152-0002]. The federal government acquired the IRS buildings and land in 1970, and assumed total responsibility for the operation of the IRS on April 1, 1970 [FTA-000395, pg. 3]. The IRS closed on June 30, 1976 [FTA-000509; FTA-000506].

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

Roman Catholic Church

1906 to 1970 The Oblates of Mary Immaculate (Oblats de Marie Immaculée, O.M.I.) [FTA-000019; FTA-000118; FTA-000460]

1906 to 1970 The Grey Nuns of the Cross (Sœurs Grises de la Croix, s.g.c.), also known as the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa (Sœurs de la Charité d'Ottawa, s.c.o.) [FTA-000546, pg. 3; FTA-000797; FTA-000651, pg. 3]

The federal government and the Oblate Indian-Eskimo Commission entered into a service contract for liaison duties for Student Residences, which included the Albany Student Residence, from April 1, 1974 to March 31, 1975. The Commission would liaise between the federal government and various Roman Catholic Church agencies, and provide advice on matters related to Student Residences [FTA-000477-0002].

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Date	Event	Document Reference
July 1, 1906	The federal government began providing support for the operation of the St. Anne's (Fort Albany) IRS.	FTA-000118 MER-0001242, pg. 5
1911	The federal government and The Vicar Apostolic of Temiskaming signed an agreement for the operation of the IRS.	FTA-000669
August 22, 1939	The main IRS building was destroyed by fire. Classes were not held from August 22 to 31; no further information was found concerning the suspension of the IRS operation. The Oblates immediately began construction on a temporary building to accommodate the children for the winter. Though the building was intended to be temporary, it was still being used in 1945. A new permanent building had not been built due to the Second World War and the demands on the federal government's finances.	FTA-000625 FTA-000626 FTA-000627 FTA-000628 FTA-000629 FTA-000630 FTA-000636 FTA-000637 OPP-002054-0001, pg. 3 OPP-000144 OPP-114608-0003, pg. 2
April 1954	In 1999, a former IRS staff member testified that the IRS building containing recreation rooms, classrooms and dormitories was completely destroyed by fire in April 1954. No lives were lost during the fire. A Principal's Monthly Report for April 1954 indicated two lost days of classes "in account of fire." No further information was found concerning the	FTA-002344, pg. 148-149 FTA-002347, pg. 137-139 FTA-000785 FTA-000786 FTA-000794 OPP-100157

	<p>suspension of the IRS operation. Regular classroom instruction carried on in May and June 1954, but it is not known from documents where the classes were held or where residents stayed.</p> <p>A separate building or "house" across the creek and about a five minute walk from the burned IRS building was also in use. The building contained dining rooms each for boys, girls, Brothers and Sisters, and a kitchen. This building was located on the same Roman Catholic Mission as the IRS.</p>	
1953 to 1954	A new IRS building was constructed by the Oblates and was first occupied in September 1954.	<p>FTA-000269 FTA-000346-0002 FTA-000360 FTA-000586-0002 FTA-000567 OPP-114608-0003, pg. 2 OPP-002054-0001, pg. 4</p>
September 1, 1965	The federal government assumed direct responsibility for the operation of the educational component of the IRS, including the employment of teachers. The classrooms were leased from the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of James Bay, a corporation of the Oblates.	<p>FTA-000152-0000 FTA-000152-0001 FTA-000152-0002 FTA-000158 FTA-000161-0000 FTA-000161-0001 FTA-000161-0002 FTA-000161-0003 FTA-000174-0001, pg. 12</p>
December 1965	The IRS continued to be owned by the Roman Catholic Church.	FTA-000181
1966 to 1968	<p>Discussions began with the federal government to purchase the IRS buildings from the Oblates in 1966.</p> <p>Formal negotiations commenced in May 1967 and an agreement for the purchase was reached in November 1967. The agreement was approved in March 1968. The purchase would be completed later in 1970.</p>	<p>FTA-000196, pg. 5-6 FTA-000198 FTA-000204 FTA-000215 FTA-000216 FTA-000221 FTA-000226 FTA-000274-0000 FTA-000274-0001 FTA-000278 FTA-000287 FTA-000288-0000 FTA-000288-0001 FTA-000288-0002 FTA-000294-0000 FTA-000294-0001 FTA-000294-0002 FTA-000194 FTA-000199</p>
1968 to 1972	<p>In December 1968, parents of students requested that English-speaking teachers be hired, as many teachers were French-speaking. Six female teachers resigned from the IRS due to disagreements with the Oblate Fathers and the Sisters over staff rules and fraternizing with the local Indian population.</p> <p>In 1971, it was noted that half of the IRS staff were not Roman Catholic. The Fort Albany Band requested in 1971 that only Roman Catholic teachers be recruited for the IRS. The federal government suggested in 1972 that involvement of the local school committee in the selection of teachers would help ensure that Catholic teachers were hired.</p>	<p>NCA-016899-0000 NCA-016899-0001 NCA-016028-0000 NCA-016028-0001 FTA-000605 FTA-000606-0000 FTA-000606-0001</p>

March 31 to April 2, 1970	<p>The IRS buildings and land became federal government property.</p> <p>The federal government purchased the IRS buildings from the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of James Bay on March 31, 1970.</p> <p>The land on which the IRS was located had previously been leased by the Oblates from the Province of Ontario, and it became federal government property on April 2, 1970.</p>	<p>FTA-000360 FTA-000373 FTA-000385 FTA-000314-0000 FTA-000314-0001 FTA-000586-0000 FTA-000586-0001 FTA-000586-0002 FTA-000383-0000 FTA-000383-0001 FTA-000383-0002 FTA-000389-0000 FTA-000389-0001 FTA-000389-0002 FTA-000640-0000 FTA-000640-0001 FTA-000648</p>
April 1, 1970	The federal government assumed responsibility for the total operation of the IRS.	<p>FTA-000395, pg. 3 FTA-000358 FTA-000360 FTA-000373 FTA-000369-0000 FTA-000369-0001</p>
May 1970	One of the staff residences burned down, and the affected staff members were accommodated in the main IRS building and the Roman Catholic Mission.	<p>FTA-000390 FTA-000395, pg. 3</p>
June 30, 1976	The IRS was closed due to low enrollment.	<p>FTA-000489-0000 FTA-000489-0001 FTA-000498-0000 FTA-000505, pg. 1, 4-5 FTA-000506 FTA-000508 FTA-000510-0000 FTA-000510-0001</p>

EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

Grades taught at the Indian Residential School

School Years	Grades offered	Document Reference
1906/07 to 1907/08	1 to 4	FTA-000118 FTA-000119, pg. 2-3
1908/09 to 1911/12	1 to 3	FTA-000120 FTA-000121 FTA-000122, pg. 2-3 FTA-000123, pg. 2-3
1912/13 to 1913/14	1	FTA-000124 FTA-000125
1914/15 to 1916/17	1 to 3	FTA-000126 FTA-000127, pg. 2-3 FTA-000128
1917/18	1 to 4	FTA-000129
1918/19	1 to 3	FTA-000130
1919/20	1 to 4	FTA-000131
1920/21	1 to 3	FTA-000132
1921/22 to 1924/25	1 to 4	FTA-000133 FTA-000134 FTA-000135 FTA-000136
1925/26	1 to 3	FTA-000137

1926/27 to 1928/29	1 to 4	FTA-000138 FTA-000139 FTA-000140
1929/30	1 to 3, 5	FTA-000141
1930/31	1 to 6	FTA-000142
1931/32	1 to 4	FTA-000143
1932/33	1 to 3	FTA-000144
1933/34 to 1934/35	1 to 4	FTA-000145 FTA-000146
1935/36 to 1936/37	1 to 5	FTA-000147 FTA-000148
1937/38	1 to 4	FTA-000149
1938/39	1 to 5	FTA-000150
1939/40	1 to 6	FTA-000817
1940/41 to 1941/42	1 to 4	FTA-000821, pg. 6 FTA-000824
1942/43	1 to 5	FTA-000826
1943/44	1 to 3	FTA-000831
1944/45	1 to 4	FTA-000834
1945/46	1 to 3	FTA-002554 FTA-002532
1946/47 to 1948/49	1 to 4	FTA-002535, pg. 6 FTA-002539, pg. 8 FTA-002544, pg. 10
1949/50	1 to 5	FTA-002548, pg. 8-10
1950/51	1 to 4	FTA-002551, pg. 8
1951/52	1 to 5	FTA-002557, pg. 12
1952/53	1 to 6	FTA-000791
1953/54	1 to 7	FTA-000786
1954/55	1 to 6	FTA-000776
1955/56 to 1956/57	No information found	
1957/58	Kindergarten, 1 to 5	FTA-000771
1958/59	1 to 6	FTA-000766
1959/60	Kindergarten, 1 to 8	FTA-000756 FTA-000754
1960/61	1 to 8	FTA-000749
1961/62 to 1962/63	Beginner, 1 to 8	FTA-000739 FTA-000734 FTA-000731
1963/64 to 1973/74	Pre-1, 1 to 8	FTA-000715 FTA-000718 FTA-000702 FTA-000692 FTA-000682 FTA-000805 FTA-001414 FTA-003135 FTA-001212 FTA-001361 FTA-001064
1974/75	No information found	
1975/76	Beginners, 1 to 9	FTA-000651, pg. 4

Other Schools Attended by Residents

Residents of the IRS did not attend other schools.

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

School Years	Number of Residents	If applicable, day scholars	Document Reference
1906/07	35	No information found	FTA-000118
1907/08	34	No information found	FTA-000119, pg. 2-3

1908/09	30	No information found	FTA-000120
1909/10 to 1911/12	33	No information found	FTA-000121 FTA-000122, pg. 2-3 FTA-000123, pg. 2-3
1912/13	20	No information found	FTA-000124
1913/14	20	No information found	FTA-000125
1914/15	22	No information found	FTA-000126
1915/16 to 1920/21	25	No information found	FTA-000127, pg. 2-3 FTA-000128 FTA-000129 FTA-000130 FTA-000131 FTA-000132
1921/22	31	No information found	FTA-000133
1922/23	30	No information found	FTA-000134
1923/24	32	No information found	FTA-000135
1924/25	31	No information found	FTA-000136
1925/26 to 1927/28	30	No information found	FTA-000137 FTA-000138 FTA-000139
1928/29	35	No information found	FTA-000140
1929/30	38	No information found	FTA-000141
1930/31	48	No information found	FTA-000142
1931/32	51	No information found	FTA-000143
1932/33	60	No information found	FTA-000144
1933/34	80	No information found	FTA-000145
1934/35	89	No information found	FTA-000146
1935/36	95	No information found	FTA-000147
1936/37	83	No information found	FTA-000148
1937/38	78	No information found	FTA-000149
1938/39	78	No information found	FTA-000150
1939/40	58	No information found	FTA-000815, pg. 6
1940/41	62	No information found	FTA-000813, pg. 4
1941/42	49	No information found	FTA-000824
1942/43	48	No information found	FTA-000826
1943/44	46	No information found	FTA-000829
1944/45	47	No information found	FTA-000832
1945/46	40	No information found	FTA-002554
1946/47	66	No information found	FTA-002535, pg. 6
1947/48	83	No information found	FTA-002539, pg. 8
1948/49	90	No information found	FTA-002544, pg. 10
1949/50	93	No information found	FTA-002548, pg. 10
1950/51	95	No information found	FTA-002551, pg. 8
1951/52	129	No information found	FTA-002557, pg. 12
1952/53	132	No information found	FTA-002561, pg. 12
1953/54	111	No information found	FTA-000786
1954/55	104	No information found	FTA-000776
1955/56 to	80	No information found	OPP-002054-0001, pg. 5

1956/57			
1957/58	125	No information found	FTA-000771
1958/59	131	No information found	FTA-000763
1959/60	139	No information found	FTA-000751
1960/61	163	No information found	FTA-000725
1961/62	144	18	FTA-000739 FTA-000732
1962/63	146	18	FTA-000731 FTA-000795
1963/64	179	58	FTA-034180 FTA-000715
1964/65	177	59	FTA-034181 FTA-000718
1965/66	178	41	FTA-000699
1966/67	191	65	FTA-000011 FTA-000686
1967/68	209	52	FTA-000679
1968/69	220	58	FTA-000805 FTA-000804
1969/70	179	53	FTA-001414 FTA-002513
1970/71	126	91	FTA-000867 FTA-003135
1971/72	131	87	FTA-034178 FTA-001212
1972/73	135	89	FTA-000881-0001, pg. 1 FTA-001361
1973/74	105	120	FTA-000883 FTA-001064
1974/75	96	No information found	FTA-000885
1975/76	18	No information found	FTA-000886-0001

From 1963/64 to 1966/67 and 1970/71 to 1973/74, the number of day pupils was derived from subtracting the number of residents from the classroom attendees.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

School Years	Special Programs Offered	Document Reference
1907 to 1912	Cree language and syllabics were taught at the IRS.	FTA-000119, pg. 4 FTA-000123, pg. 4
1912	Recreational activities included football and canoeing in summer, and skating and snowshoeing in the winter.	FTA-000123, pg. 5
1960	Cree language and syllabics were taught at the IRS. The federal Regional Supervisor, North Bay, indicated that this practice could impede the instruction of English and recommended that children learn native languages at home.	FTA-000070 FTA-000074
June 20, 1962	Students held a concert at the IRS.	FTA-000081
November 1964	The IRS had two senior hockey teams, the Canadians and the Maple Leafs.	FTA-005700, pg.11

November 13, 1964	The Boy Scouts went to a camp in Fort Albany to meet the visiting Boy Scout Field Executive from North Bay.	FTA-005700, pg.11
November 22, 1964	The IRS choir and musicians attended a party in the grade 7 classroom for the Feast of St. Cecilia.	FTA-005700, pg.11
December 1964	On December 5, the Bishop from Moosonee visited the IRS. On December 8, the Bishop presided over the Boy Scouts' first pledge and investiture ceremony in Fort Albany. Also present at the ceremony were Sisters, lay teachers, Royal Canadian Air Force Station personnel, and people from the village.	FTA-005700, pg.11
1967/68	Activities at the IRS included arts and crafts, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, choir, folklore dancing, music and cheerleading. Documents indicate that IRS staff organized the Boy Scouts and Girl Guide activities.	OPP-000130, pg. 45-46
1968/69	Activities at the IRS included arts and crafts, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, chapel singing, folklore dancing, music, home economics, and occupational shop. Documents indicate that IRS staff organized the Boy Scouts and Girl Guide activities.	OPP-001002, pg. 159-160
1973	Religious instruction was provided in the classrooms at the IRS on a daily basis by two Priests.	FTA-000582-0000
1976	An Indian Culture Program was taught at the IRS that included formal training in the Cree Language. Parents of residents were encouraged to teach traditional skills such as snaring rabbits, ice fishing, setting traps, establishing a seasonal camp, and cooking traditional foods such as bannock. Related skills and knowledge included snowshoeing, geese calling, and Indian legends. A list of resource people willing to teach traditional skills had been compiled and IRS teachers were encouraged to make use of local resource people.	FTA-000651, pg. 5

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Date	Event	Document Reference
1908	The IRS was located on Albany Island, four acres east of the Hudson's Bay Company Post, and four to five miles from the James Bay coast. The student dormitory was a three storey building with a basement, measuring 65 x 35 feet. There were also other unspecified buildings on IRS grounds. The land was owned by the Hudson's Bay Company and rented by the Roman Catholic Mission.	FTA-000119, pg. 4 FTA-000643
1911	The IRS had three dormitories to accommodate 32 residents and staff, and two classrooms.	FTA-000598
1916	The main IRS building was three storeys tall. Other IRS buildings included a barn, carpenter-shop, laundry and a store house. The land was still owned by the Hudson's Bay Company and leased by the Roman Catholic Mission at this time.	FTA-000127, pg. 5
1922 to 1929	In 1922, plans were underway to construct a new IRS building at a new location. The new site was located one mile from the junction of the Albany and Yellow Rivers, which was three to five miles from the original IRS site. The move and construction were delayed, but clearing work	FTA-000609 FTA-000611 FTA-000612 FTA-000613 FTA-000614 FTA-000616

	<p>at the site began in 1926, and by 1927 the foundation was dug out.</p> <p>The construction of the barn began in April 1929.</p>	<p>FTA-000617 FTA-000618 OPP-002054-0001, pg. 2</p>
1931 to 1933	<p>In 1931 the Oblates were in the process of constructing a new IRS building with federal government funding.</p> <p>Though the new building was not completed until 1933, it was first occupied on April 11, 1932.</p>	<p>FTA-000619 FTA-000607 FTA-000620 FTA-000621 FTA-000622 RCN-007168, pg. 7 RCN-007169, pg. 6 FTA-000624 OPP-000236, pg. 8 OPP-002060-0000, pg. 1 OPP-002054-0001, pg. 2</p>
September 24, 1935	<p>A License of Occupation, No. 3557, between the Province of Ontario and the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate granted the Oblates use of provincially-owned land near Fort Albany.</p> <p>Though the license indicated that use of the land was for “hospital site purposes”, later documents indicate that the land specified on the license was used for the IRS.</p>	<p>FTA-001484 FTA-000263 FTA-000229-0000 FTA-000229-0001 FTA-000307</p>
August 22, 1939	<p>The main IRS building burned down.</p> <p>The Oblates immediately began constructing a temporary IRS building measuring 75 x 35 feet to accommodate the children until a new IRS was built. The temporary structure was completed in December 1939, and located at the same Roman Catholic Mission site, just southeast of the burned IRS, across a small stream joined by a bridge. The three storey building had capacity for 100 residents.</p>	<p>FTA-000625 FTA-000626 FTA-000627 FTA-000628 FTA-000021 FTA-000632-0001 OPP-002054-0001, pg. 3 OPP-000144 OPP-114608-0003, pg. 2</p>
1939	<p>IRS buildings included the temporary IRS building, sawmill, temporary shop, joiner shop, turbine and plant, machinery, bakery, two warehouses, a barn and stable. There were also 120 acres of land under cultivation.</p>	<p>FTA-000628 FTA-000632-0001</p>
1940	<p>While plans had been initiated to construct a new IRS building, funding could not be secured from the federal government due to the Second World War.</p>	<p>FTA-000023 FTA-000024 FTA-000027</p>
October 1941	<p>A new IRS classroom building had been constructed at the Mission site by the Oblates.</p>	<p>FTA-000054 FTA-000634 FTA-000635</p>
January 11, 1944	<p>The land on which the IRS was situated was leased by the Province of Ontario to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of James Bay, representing the Oblates.</p>	<p>FTA-001485</p>
December 1945	<p>The “temporary” building that was constructed following the fire in 1939 was still in use. A new permanent building had not been constructed due to the demands on the federal government’s finances resulting from the Second World War.</p>	<p>FTA-000636 FTA-000637</p>
April 1954	<p>In 1999, a former IRS staff member testified that in April 1954, a building in use for the IRS was completely destroyed by fire. A journal written by Sisters at the IRS also noted the burning of the “children’s residence.” A</p>	<p>FTA-002344, pg. 148-149 FTA-002347, pg. 137-139</p>

	<p>Principal's Monthly Report indicated two lost days of classes in April 1954 "in account of fire."</p> <p>The building was described as having had two recreation rooms and two or three classrooms on the first floor, a dormitory for girls on the second floor, and a boys' dormitory on the third floor. The boys' dormitory was "one big room", with the room for the boys' supervisor located "in one corner." There was no running water in the building.</p> <p>Principal's Monthly Reports indicate that regular classroom instruction carried on in May and June 1954, but it is not known from documents where the classes were held or where residents stayed.</p> <p>The former IRS staff member also testified that a separate building or "house" across the creek and about a five minute walk from the burned IRS building contained dining rooms each for boys, girls, Brothers and Sisters, and a kitchen. This building was located on the same Roman Catholic Mission as the IRS.</p>	<p>FTA-000785 FTA-000786 FTA-000794 OPP-100157</p>
<p>1953 to 1958</p>	<p>A new, "H" shaped center portion of the IRS building was constructed by the Oblates and first occupied in September 1954. The new building included a kitchen, laundry, dining room, classrooms, and dormitory space for approximately 170 residents.</p> <p>In 1999, a former IRS staff member testified that the completion of the new IRS building was a gradual process in stages. The kitchen and dining room were the last of the IRS rooms to move to the new building around 1958. Until that time, the kitchen and dining rooms were situated in the "house" across the creek from the new IRS building. Upon completion of the new IRS building, the "house" began to be used as a hospital.</p> <p>In May 1999, a former IRS staff member stated that in 1956 and 1957, the dining room for the boys was situated in what he referred to as the "old" hospital building. This building was located on the same Roman Catholic Mission as the IRS.</p>	<p>FTA-000269 FTA-000346-0002 FTA-000360 FTA-000586-0002 FTA-000567 OPP-003000, pg. 10 OPP-002054-0001, pg. 4 OPP-114608-0003, pg. 2 FTA-002347, pg. 141-143 OPP-114615</p>
<p>May 1957</p>	<p>There were plans to add permanent classrooms, recreational halls, and two dormitories to the IRS.</p> <p>These facilities were later constructed in 1959/60; please see entry for 1959 to 1960.</p>	<p>FTA-000030</p>
<p>February 1958</p>	<p>The classrooms were moved into the Oblate Mission hospital building, constructed in 1941, that had been renovated for the purpose of instruction.</p> <p>In a 1995 statement, a Sister who had worked as a nurse at the hospital in Fort Albany in the late 1950s described the building that housed the hospital as having 3 floors and a basement. The attic was on the top floor, and the second floor comprised the hospital and IRS classrooms. The main floor was used as a kitchen and the basement was reserved for medication storage. This building was located on the same Roman Catholic Mission as the IRS.</p> <p>The date this building ceased to be used for classrooms is unknown. No information was found to indicate whether only residents or day students attended class in this building.</p>	<p>FTA-000054 FTA-000038 OPP-003001, pg. 181-184</p>

1959 to 1960	A new wing/block of the IRS building was completed and it contained “approximately one million square feet” of floor space. The building had two dormitories and three classrooms.	FTA-000267 FTA-000266 FTA-000567
July 1963	The main IRS building, built in 1954, had three floors plus a basement, as well as a two-floor wing. The basement had a boiler room, wood storage, and small workshops. The first floor had a recreation room, dining rooms, and a kitchen. The second floor had a dormitory for 80 students, a chapel, and dormitory for 30 girls. The third floor had eight classrooms, dormitories, and living quarters for Sisters.	FTA-000232, pg. 2, 5
June 1965	The Oblates made various improvements to the IRS: the kitchens were modernized with a propane stove and a propane steam kettle, the recreation halls were repainted, and new fire escapes, fire walls and fire doors were built. Further improvements to the laundry facilities were also planned.	FTA-000173
July 1965	<p>The IRS was equipped to accommodate 250 persons, including residents and staff. The main IRS building had four wings or sections.</p> <p>The first section, constructed in 1956, had a basement and three floors. It was 216,108 cubic feet. The first floor had dining rooms and a manual training room; the second and third floors had staff quarters and chapel.</p> <p>The second section, constructed in 1953, had a basement, two floors, and a partial third floor. It was 47,430 cubic feet. The section had a kitchen and the dormitories.</p> <p>The third section, constructed in 1953, had two subsections: one had a basement, two floors, and partial third floor; the other section had a basement and four floors. It was 29,988 cubic feet in total. This section had the laundry, boiler room, dining rooms, and storage.</p> <p>The fourth section, constructed in 1959, had a basement, three floors, and a partial fourth floor. It was 47,430 cubic feet. The basement had the locker room, showers, and the steam bath; the first floor had the recreation room; the second floor had eight classrooms, and dormitories; and, the third floor had dormitories.</p> <p>The federal government rented a teacherage from the Oblates.</p>	FTA-000174-0000 FTA-000174-0001
April 1966	The main IRS building had eight classrooms. Janitorial and maintenance services were provided by the Oblate Mission staff. Teachers lived in a staff residence owned by the Oblates.	FTA-000188-0000 FTA-000188-0001
January 1967	The refectories for the boys and girls consisted of two similar long narrow rooms, measuring about 48' x 21'.	FTA-000203-0003
April to May 1967	<p>Eight classrooms were located in the main IRS building, and the Oblates made a request to the federal government for two additional classrooms. A “steelox” building, partitioned into two classrooms, was purchased by the Oblates and connected to the main IRS building. Since the federal government was interested in purchasing the IRS buildings, the cost of the steelox building was to be considered in the sale price.</p> <p>“Steelox” buildings are further described as “abandoned</p>	FTA-000204 FTA-000213-0000 FTA-000213-0001 FTA-000215 FTA-000216 FTA-000217 FTA-000227-0000 FTA-000227-0001 FTA-000312-0001 FTA-000312-0002

	<p>military buildings” or “abandoned radar huts.”</p> <p>The federal government rented the steelox building from the Oblates for classroom instruction.</p>	
August 1967	<p>The main IRS building was “H” shaped and had two and three storey wings, each with a full basement.</p> <p>The senior girls’ dormitory building was located at the “left end” of the main building. It was a one storey building made of wood frame, and it measured 17 x 20 feet. It could accommodate 60 teenage girls, and it did not have any washroom facilities. An August 1967 inspection of the IRS described the senior girls’ dormitory building as a fire hazard with poor lighting and heating.</p> <p>The “L” shaped Staff Residence No. 1 building was located approximately 200 feet from the “right-hand side” of the main IRS building.</p> <p>The Staff Residence No. 2 building was located between the main IRS building and Staff Residence No. 1. It was a steelox building acquired from the Royal Canadian Airforce, and measured 95 x 27 feet.</p> <p>A temporary two-classroom steelox building was in the process of being set up. It was joined to the main IRS building by a wood-frame corridor attached to a rear exit.</p> <p>A prefabricated refrigeration and food storage building was located to the “rear” of the main IRS building, directly behind the kitchen.</p>	FTA-000346-0002
April 1968	<p>Eight classrooms operated in the main IRS building and two classrooms operated in separate buildings.</p>	CJC-000611-0000 CJC-000611-0001
1969	<p>By 1969, a second “steelox” building with two classrooms was used at the IRS. Two steelox buildings, with a total of four classrooms, were located on the IRS grounds. These buildings were connected to the main IRS building by a corridor.</p> <p>The pre-fabricated food storage building was connected to the main IRS building by a corridor from the kitchen exit.</p>	FTA-000308 FTA-000309 FTA-000354-0000 FTA-000354-0001 FTA-000312-0000 FTA-000312-0001 FTA-000312-0002
April 1969	<p>The IRS rendered laundry and cafeteria services to the hospital and Oblate Mission. There was an official “launderer” staff position at the IRS.</p>	FTA-000305-0001 FTA-000305-0002
June 1969	<p>The main IRS building was an “H” shaped structure with several sections or wings.</p> <p>One section contained classrooms, student dormitories, student and staff dining areas, recreation areas, furnace rooms, a chapel, and some staff accommodation.</p> <p>Another section was comprised of two former military buildings or radar huts used for classrooms. Documents also describe these buildings as “steelox” huts.</p>	FTA-000312-0000 FTA-000312-0001 FTA-000312-0002
March to April 1970	<p>The federal government purchased the IRS buildings from the Oblates on March 31, 1970.</p> <p>The IRS buildings included the following: the three-storey main IRS building containing dormitories, eight classrooms, a kitchen, dining rooms, and administration office; two one-storey “steelox” buildings each containing two classrooms; a</p>	FTA-000346-0001 FTA-000360 FTA-000385 FTA-000387 FTA-000314-0000 FTA-000314-0001 FTA-000356

	<p>residence for eight staff members; a residence for six staff members; and, a food storage building.</p> <p>The federal government acquired the land on which the IRS was located on from the Province of Ontario on April 2, 1970.</p>	<p>FTA-000357 FTA-000586-0000 FTA-000586-0001 FTA-000586-0002 FTA-000383-0000 FTA-000383-0001 FTA-000383-0002 FTA-000389-0000 FTA-000389-0001 FTA-000389-0002 FTA-000640-0000 FTA-000640-0001 FTA-001497-0000 FTA-001497-0001 FTA-000377-0000 FTA-000377-0001 FTA-000529</p>
May 1970	One of the staff residences burned down, and affected staff members were accommodated in the main IRS building and the Roman Catholic Mission.	FTA-000390 FTA-000395, pg. 3
June 1970	<p>The main IRS building was three floors, and part of it was two floors with a basement. The exterior walls were made of concrete.</p> <p>Other buildings at the site included a staff residence building, a girls' dormitory building, two different two-classroom buildings, and a food storage building. The classroom and food storage buildings are described as pre-fabricated "Butler-type buildings".</p> <p>The girls' dormitory building was recommended for demolition due to fire hazards by a Regional Fire Protection Engineer for the Dominion Fire Commissioner.</p>	FTA-000395
1971 to 1972	Plans to build a temporary residence by September 1971 were made. No information concerning the construction of a new residence building was found. The building constructed in 1954 was used by the IRS until it closed in June 1976.	FTA-000408 FTA-000409 FTA-000575
June 30, 1976	The St. Anne's (Fort Albany) IRS closed.	FTA-000489-0000 FTA-000489-0001 FTA-000498-0000 FTA-000505, pg. 1, 4-5 FTA-000506 FTA-000508 FTA-000510-0000 FTA-000510-0001

PHOTOS, PLANS AND LAYOUT

Date	Description	Document Reference
Undated	Rough sketch of the floor plan of the attic and first floor of the Mission house in Fort Albany, and sketch showing the proximity of the Mission house to the IRS, hospital, Sisters' residence, old abandoned hospital, Northern Store, creek, airport and police residence.	OPP-100157
Undated	Photograph of the exterior of the IRS building.	OPP-114697-0004
Circa. 1935	Sketch of land occupied by the Oblates and the IRS under License of Occupation No. 3557.	FTA-000263
Circa. 1939	Sketch map of Albany area, including the IRS	FTA-000627

1940	Sketch map of the IRS site, showing the location of the temporary IRS building, the burnt IRS building, sawmill, carpenter shop, joiner shop, a bakery, two warehouses and a barn.	FTA-000632-0001
February 1940	Proposed basement floor plan.	FTA-000632-0002
February 1940	Proposed first floor plan.	FTA-000632-0003
February 1940	Proposed second floor plan.	FTA-000632-0004
February 1940	Sectional diagram of the IRS building.	FTA-000632-0005
February 1940	Proposed elevation of the new IRS building.	FTA-000632-0006
September 1941	Photographs of the IRS buildings.	FTA-000633-0001
April 1964	Sketch map of the Albany area, depicting the location of the IRS.	FTA-000251-0001
1967	Photographs of the main IRS building.	FTA-000346-0003 FTA-000346-0004 FTA-000346-0005
1967	Photographs of a room in the main IRS building.	FTA-000346-0006 FTA-000346-0007
1967	Photograph of the senior girls' dormitory.	FTA-000346-0008
1967	Photograph of staff residences.	FTA-000346-0009
1967	Photographs of two temporary classroom buildings.	FTA-000346-0010
1967	Photograph of refrigeration and food storage building.	FTA-000346-0011
1967	Photographs of the interior of the dormitory.	FTA-000346-0012 FTA-000346-0013 FTA-000346-0014
1967	Photographs of the interior of a classroom.	FTA-000346-0015 FTA-000346-0016
1967	Photograph of the IRS land.	FTA-000346-0017
June 1969	Sketch layout of the IRS complex.	FTA-000312-0002
November, 19, 1969	Survey map of the Fort Albany area and Sinclair Island.	FTA-001496
Circa. 1970	Photograph of children crossing the river.	FTA-000400-0003
April 2, 1970	Map of land parcel showing location of the IRS.	FTA-000638-0005 FTA-000641-0002
April 8, 1970	Survey map of Fort Albany area and Sinclair Island.	FTA-000644
July 1970	Photograph of pupils walking across a river.	FTA-000400-0003
September 17, 1970	Plans for fire protection and improvements at the IRS.	FTA-030653
March 1972	An IRS yearbook provided a sketch of the IRS site.	FTA-000429, pg. 14-15
February 1979	Sketch plan of the former IRS site.	FTA-001504-0001
October 1979	Copy of blueprints of the IRS elevation and framing plan for floors and roof.	FTA-000537-0005
December 1979	Structural assessment of the former IRS, including pictures of elevations and some indoor rooms.	FTA-000537-0001
February 1983	Floor plan of space inside the former IRS building.	FTA-000641-0001
December 2, 1985	Partial floor plan of the former IRS.	FTA-000638-0004
December 10, 1993	Survey map of the Fort Albany Indian Reserve, includes former location of the IRS.	FTA-000645
Undated	Map of the Fort Albany Indian Reserve, depicts the IRS buildings.	FTA-001095
1992	Rough hand-drawn sketch of the location of the IRS in proximity to Anderson Island and an unnamed trail. Footprints are identified on the diagram, in relation to a 1992 statement to the Ontario Provincial Police regarding the disappearance of three boys from the IRS in 1941.	OPP-000195-0007 OPP-000195-0008 OPP-000195-0010

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

In August 1992, thirty former IRS students made allegations concerning abuse at the IRS to a panel at the St. Anne's Residential School Reunion and Healing Conference in Fort Albany, Ontario. The allegations included sexual, physical and mental abuse suffered at the IRS, and allegations of suspicious deaths related to the disappearance of three boys from the IRS in 1941. Some participants spoke of being forced to sit in an electric chair for punishment. The allegations of abuse were summarized by panel members in the "Report of the Testimonial/Panel" dated August 20, 1992. In November 1992, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) commenced a criminal investigation of the allegations that lasted over four years and involved 900 interviews with approximately 700 people. Persons of interest identified in the investigation belonged to the Oblates of Marie Immaculate and the Sisters of Charity religious orders, as well as lay persons. Several persons of interest were deceased, and all of the deceased were either Brothers or Priests. A high percentage of sexual abuse allegations involved deceased persons of interest. A number of allegations of abuse were screened out of the investigation, and some victims of abuse were not willing to participate further in the investigation.

[OPP-000158; OPP-101142; OPP-000157; OPP-114567-0001; OPP-000236, pg. 5-7; FTA-000568; OPP-114590-0004; OPP-002066; OPP-100444-0001; OPP-100452-0001; OPP-114701-0001; OPP-114701-0002; OPP-114138; OPP-114139; OPP-114140; OPP-114098; OPP-114037; FTA-000897 pg. 11; FTA-002355, pg. 81-82; OPP-114061; OPP-002067, pg. 267; OPP-002068, pg. 26, 49, 54, 60; OPP-002069, pg. 233; OPP-114062; FTA-002346, pg. 147]

In September 1997, seven former IRS staff members were charged for abuse committed against former IRS students. The charges consisted of common assault, assault causing bodily harm, administering a noxious substance, indecent assault, and gross indecency. Please see the conviction information and the Incident sections below for further information.

[FTA-002435; OPP-002051-0005; OPP-114627-0000; OPP-114702-0002; OPP-114100].

Please see St. Anne's (Fort Albany) IRS - Narrative Appendix A for further documents concerning the OPP investigation, criminal proceedings, and civil litigation related to the IRS.

Charges and Convictions

To date, we are aware of the following charges and convictions for abuse at the St. Anne's (Fort Albany) IRS:

1997 A charge of one count of indecent assault on a male student at the IRS between June and August 1969 were laid against a former staff member. The accused pled guilty and was placed on probation for a period of 18 months. Trial transcripts include the allegations of indecent assault.

[FTA-002435; FTA-001109, pg. 12; OPP-000129, pg. 231; OPP-000236, pg. 13, 21-23; OPP-001001, pg. 171, 179; OPP-002066, pg. 37; OPP-002068, pg. 70; OPP-002069, pg. 19, 58, 84; OPP-001225; OPP-002051-0004; OPP-002051-0005; OPP-002051-0009; OPP-000161-0002, pg. 2; OPP-000162-0003, pg. 3-4; OPP-000178; OPP-114702-0002; FTA-000900].

1997; 1999 Charges of three counts of assault causing bodily harm on female students at the IRS between 1962 and 1967 were laid against a former IRS staff member and Sister who left the order in 1969. The accused was convicted on all three charges and received a conditional sentence of six months in prison, to be served in the community. Trial transcripts also include the allegations of physical abuse.

[FTA-002435; FTA-002436; FTA-001109, pg. 15; OPP-000129, pg. 234-236; OPP-000235, pg. 172, 193, 245, 363; OPP-000236, pg. 167, 185-189; OPP-002066, pg. 46-47, 52; OPP-002067, pg. 30, 40, 69, 131, 135, 175, 204; OPP-002068, pg. 43, 264; OPP-001225; OPP-002051-0004; OPP-002051-0005; OPP-002051-0009; OPP-000161-0002, pg. 6-7, 9; OPP-000162-0003, pg. 11-12, 14; OPP-000178; OPP-114614-0001; OPP-114032; OPP-114702-0002; FTA-000895; FTA-000896; FTA-000898; FTA-000899, pg. 55-56, 70; FTA-002343, pg. 10; FTA-002266-0000; FTA-002266-0001; FTA-002267].

Documents from the OPP investigation indicate that additional allegations against this former IRS staff member were reviewed, but did not result in criminal charges. The allegations included the following: common assault, assault causing bodily harm, forcible confinement, intimidation, being a party to an indecent assault and indecent assault.

[OPP-000129, pg. 233-236; OPP-000235, pg. 172, 273, 294, 329, 394; OPP-002066, pg. 45, 48-51, 121-131; OPP-100326; OPP-002067, pg. 193; OPP-000161-0002, pg. 5-8; OPP-000162-0003, pg. 8-14; OPP-002061, pg. 84, 97].

1997

A charge of one count of indecent assault on a male student at the IRS between May 1969 and October 1976 was laid against a former staff member. The accused pled guilty and was sentenced to eight months in prison.

In 1993, this former staff member was also charged for a count of indecent assault related to an incident in the Duck Lake, Saskatchewan area from 1969 to 1976. He pled guilty to the count on September 6, 1994 and was sentenced to one year of monitored probation and community service.

[FTA-002435; FTA-001109, pg. 15; OPP-000129, pg. 237; OPP-000130, pg. 3, 23; OPP-000237, pg. 6, 25-27; OPP-002066, pg. 53; OPP-002068, pg. 145; OPP-001225; OPP-002051-0004; OPP-002051-0005; OPP-002051-0009; OPP-000161-0002, pg. 9-10; OPP-000162-0003, pg. 16; OPP-000178; OPP-114702-0002; SMD-016705; SMD-016706; SMD-016707; SMD-016708; SMD-016709; SMD-016710].

1991 to 1999 In 1991, a former staff member was convicted for four separate sex offenses, including sexual interference and sexual invitation to touching, involving children under the age of 14 in the Fort Albany area, and received a 90 sentence.

On November 20, 1997, the former staff member pled guilty to the following counts related to abuse against an IRS student between 1967 and 1968: one count of indecent assault and one count of gross indecency. He also pled guilty to two other charges not related to the IRS. Two counts of gross indecency, that were part of the same offenses, had been withdrawn by the Crown. The former staff member was sentenced to one year in prison consecutive to any term currently being served.

In October 1998, the former staff member had also been charged with seven counts related to abuse against IRS students between 1969 and 1975: four counts of indecent assault on a male student and three counts of gross indecency. Court documents indicate that on October 27, 1998, the staff member plead guilty to three counts of indecent assault and two counts of gross indecency, and that the Crown withdrew the two remaining counts. The former staff member was sentenced to 18 months in prison plus two years probation.

Note: OPP correspondence from November 1998 and a 1999 report written for the Law Commission of Canada indicate that the former staff member plead guilty to five counts of gross indecency on October 27, 1998; however, no court documents were found to confirm this information.

Trial transcripts include the allegations of sexual abuse, and also include allegations of sexual abuse against other individuals.

[FTA-002370; FTA-002435; FTA-001109, pg. 19; OPP-000129, pg. 238-240; OPP-000130, pg. 212, 240, 277, 299; OPP-000237, pg. 67, 96-100; OPP-002066, pg. 59-62, 181; OPP-002069, pg. 57, 274; OPP-002067, pg. 190; OPP-001225; OPP-002051-0005; OPP-002051-0009; OPP-000162-0002, pg. 12-14; OPP-000162-0003, pg. 19-23; OPP-000231; OPP-000178; OPP-114702-0002; OPP-114031; FTA-002350; FTA-002351; FTA-002352, pg. 2, 20-21; FTA-001352-0000; FTA-001352-0001; FTA-001352-0002; FTA-001352-0003; FTA-001352-0004; FTA-001352-0005; FTA-001352-0006; FTA-001352-0007].

Documents from the OPP investigation indicate that additional allegations

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against this former IRS staff member were reviewed, but did not result in criminal charges. The allegations included the following: indecent assault, indecent exposure, and gross indecency.

[OPP-002066, pg. 182-183; OPP-002067, pg. 228; OPP-002069, pg. 217-218; OPP-002061, pg. 9, 23].

1997 to 1999 Charges of 3 counts of common assault, 3 counts of administering a noxious substance, and 4 counts of assault causing bodily harm were laid against a former IRS staff member and Sister who left the order in 1972. The charges concerned allegations of abuse against IRS students between 1951 and 1962, and the accused pled not guilty to all counts. The accused was convicted on 5 counts of common assault and 3 counts of administering a noxious substance. The jury was directed by the court to find the accused not guilty on 1 count of assault causing bodily harm, and the accused was found not guilty on 1 count of assault causing bodily harm. The former IRS staff member was given a conditional sentence of eleven and a half months in prison, to be served in the community. Trial transcripts include the allegations of physical abuse. Trial transcripts also include allegations of physical abuse against others.

[FTA-002435; FTA-002437; FTA-002438; FTA-001109, pg. 21; OPP-000129, pg. 6; 35-40, 240-244; OPP-002064, pg. 3, 36, 106, 164, 205, 239, 313, 331; OPP-002066, pg. 64, 67, 69-70, 73, 76-77, 214; OPP-002067, pg. 260, 262; OPP-002068, pg. 181; OPP-002069, pg. 210; OPP-000161-0002, pg. 15-16, 18, 20; OPP-000162-0003, pg. 24-26, 28, 31-32; OPP-000231; OPP-001225; OPP-002045-0001; OPP-002051-0005; OPP-002051-0007, pg. 8; OPP-002051-0009; OPP-100197; OPP-114608-0003, pg. 8; OPP-114702-0002; FTA-002344, pg. 2, 9-11; FTA-002346; FTA-002347; FTA-002348; FTA-002349; FTA-002343, pg. 1, 38-40, 45-49; FTA-002345; FTA-001353-0000; FTA-001353-0001; FTA-001353-0002; FTA-001353-0003].

Documents from the OPP investigation indicate that additional allegations against this former IRS staff member were reviewed, but did not result in criminal charges. The allegations included the following: common assault, assault causing bodily harm, intimidation, forcible confinement, and sexual assault.

[OPP-000129, pg. 240-244; OPP-002064, pg. 54, 74, 133, 187, 221, 258, 280; OPP-002066, pg. 65-66, 68, 71-72, 74-75, 200-213, 215-217; OPP-002067, pg. 3, 95, 233, 260-261, 263; OPP-002068, pg. 14, 59, 195, 231; OPP-002069, pg. 121, 255-256; OPP-000161-0002, pg. 14-19; OPP-000162-0003, pg. 3, 24-26, 30-31; OPP-100326; OPP-102940; OPP-102944].

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)

Documents from the OPP investigation indicate that allegations of the following were reviewed against former IRS staff members but did not result in criminal charges: sexual assault, detaining a female against her will with intent to cause her to have illicit sexual intercourse, being a party to a sexual assault, and intercourse with a female under 14 years of age.

[OPP-000129, pg. 231, 233, 235, 238, 244-245; OPP-000130, pg. 330, 357; OPP-000235, pg. 55, 79, 118, 142; OPP-001001, pg. 93, 122, 209, 238; OPP-002062, pg. 2, 19; OPP-002066, pg. 35, 38, 44, 54, 58, 63, 81-82, 87, 89, 99-101, 109-112, 114-118, 120, 133, 137, 140-157, 162-163, 176, 178-179, 221; OPP-002063, pg. 2, 16; OPP-002067, pg. 60, 71, 74, 111, 122, 209, 228, 249, 273; OPP-002068, pg. 12, 35, 46, 66, 70, 134, 152, 162, 165, 216; OPP-002069, pg. 63, 78, 121, 134, 154, 214, 250, 253, 289, 292; OPP-002142-0007; OPP-003000, pg. 1; OPP-003001, pg. 2; OPP-000161-0002, pg. 1-3, 5, 10-11, 20-22; OPP-000162-0003, pg. 2-5, 16-19, 32-35; OPP-100080-0001; OPP-100326; OPP-001164; OPP-001319-0001; OPP-100324, pg. 2, 16].

Undated In a 1993 statement to the OPP, a former IRS resident claimed that her brother died while at the IRS. Though her family was told her brother had fallen while skating, she believed the cause of death was sexual abuse. The statement also mentioned the death of the woman's male cousin at the IRS.

[OPP-000013-0001; OPP-000013-0002, pg. 4].

1992 During the St. Anne's Residential School Reunion and Healing Conference in 1992, a female participant claimed that she became pregnant at the IRS as the result of a sexual assault by two males, and that the baby was taken away at birth. The OPP investigated and determined in 1996 that the allegations fell "short of the threshold required to be considered valid."

[OPP-000158, pg. 1, 5-6; OPP-000157; OPP-001324-0005; OPP-000236, pg. 5; OPP-002067, pg. 39; OPP-114037; OPP-003000, pg. 1; OPP-003001, pg. 2; OPP-102115].

1997 A newspaper article indicated that assault and sexual assault charges were laid against seven former IRS employees.

[FTA-002435].

1997 to 1998 A former IRS staff member was charged with one count of indecent assault on a male student. The charges were withdrawn after the complainant did not appear in court. Trial transcripts include the allegations of sexual abuse.

[FTA-002435; FTA-001109, pg. 13; OPP-000129, pg. 232; OPP-000236, pg. 53, 76-78; OPP-001002, pg. 73, 95; OPP-001138; OPP-002066, pg. 40; OPP-002067, pg. 21; OPP-001225; OPP-002051-0004; OPP-002051-0009; OPP-000161-0002, pg. 3; OPP-000162-0003, pg. 5-6; OPP-000178; OPP-114702-0002; FTA-000901]

Documents from the OPP investigation indicate that additional allegations of sexual assault against this former IRS staff member were reviewed but did not result in criminal charges.

[OPP-002068, pg. 211]

1997; 1999 A former IRS staff member was charged with one count of indecent assault on a male student. The former IRS staff member pled not guilty and was acquitted after a trial. Trial transcripts include the allegations of sexual abuse. Trial transcripts also include allegations of sexual abuse by another individual against the male student.

[FTA-002435; FTA-001109, pg. 13, OPP-000129, pg. 232; OPP-000236, pg. 104, 126-128; OPP-001002, pg. 117, 139; OPP-002066, pg. 41; OPP-001137; OPP-001225; OPP-002004-0001, pg. 2; OPP-002051-0004; OPP-002051-0005; OPP-002051-0009; OPP-000161-0002, pg. 4; OPP-000162-0003, pg. 6-7; OPP-000178; OPP-114082; OPP-114702-0002; FTA-002353; FTA-002354; FTA-002355, pg. 175, 182].

Documents from the OPP investigation indicate that allegations including common assault and assault causing bodily harm against this former IRS staff member were reviewed but did not result in criminal charges.

[OPP-002004-0001, pg. 1; OPP-002061, pg. 41, 66; OPP-001137].

Incidents (Physical)

Documents from the OPP investigation indicate that allegations of the following against former IRS staff members were reviewed but did not result in criminal charges: physical assault, intimidation, forcible confinement, failure to supply necessities, and abduction.

[OPP-000129, pg. 230, 232-233, 237-238; OPP-000130, pg. 111, 133, 179; OPP-000235, pg. 3, 28; OPP-001001, pg. 16, 36, 68, 93, 143; OPP-001002, pg. 3, 37; OPP-002061, pg. 117, 143; OPP-002066, pg. 33-34, 36, 39, 43, 56-57, 80, 83, 85, 90-91, 94-95, 102-106, 113, 119, 138, 159-161, 165, 167-169, 170, 173-175, 177, 190-193, 199, 222; OPP-002067, pg. 4, 41, 107, 172, 195, 209, 211, 246, 267; OPP-002068, pg. 17, 29, 33, 55, 76, 77, 91, 96-97, 106, 133, 135-136, 141-144, 146, 153, 156, 161, 162, 215, 256, 258, 265; OPP-002069, pg. 4, 6, 8, 37-38, 42-43, 46, 49, 51-52, 60-61, 66, 79, 81-84, 134; 200, 213, 247, 260-261, 280, 288, 291; OPP-002169-0001; OPP-000161-0002, pg. 1-5, 10-12, 14, 21; OPP-000162-0003, pg. 1-3, 5, 7-8, 13, 16, 19, 23, 26-27, 33;

OPP-100054-0003, pg. 13-14; OPP-100326; OPP-116465; OPP-003000, pg. 1].

Undated In a 1993 statement to the OPP, a former IRS resident claimed that a boy who had been beaten by a priest subsequently died. Another 1993 statement to the OPP by a former IRS resident claimed that someone “told the conference last summer that the nuns beat up a woman at the school and she died because of it.”

[OPP-102609-0000; OPP-102609-0001; OPP-102647-0000; OPP-102647-0001].

1914 In a 1993 statement to the OPP, a former IRS resident claimed that a girl broke a window at the IRS and a priest “grabbed her by the ears and swung her around and the girl died after that.”

[OPP-002164-0001].

1932 In a 1993 statement to the OPP, a former IRS resident claimed that a female resident died after a physical assault by a staff member.

[OPP-002164-0001].

1940s In a 1993 statement to the OPP, a former IRS resident claimed that her brother died at the IRS when he was 12 years old, possibly “from an injury of violence”, and that her sister died due to injuries after being pushed down the stairs at the IRS.

[OPP-000086-0003, pg. 3; OPP-103637; OPP-000086-0002; OPP-000086-0003, pg. 3; OPP-103637].

1941 to 1942 Three truant male students had left the IRS in April 1941 and were later presumed to have drowned during the spring ice break. An RCMP investigation revealed that the parents of the children alleged mistreatment at the IRS may have caused the boys to leave. An inquiry was held in June 1942 that cleared all parties of any wrongdoing.

[FTA-000115-0000; FTA-000115-0001; FTA-000103; FTA-000105-0000; FTA-000105-0001; FTA-000107-0000; FTA-000107-0001; FTA-000108; FTA-000109; FTA-000110; FTA-000111; FTA-000112; FTA-000113; FTA-000114; FTA-000116-0000; FTA-000116-0001 to FTA-000116-0016; FTA-000117; FTA-035029; FTA-035136; FTA-035138; OPP-106045; OPP-000135; OPP-000236, pg. 6; OPP-106118; OPP-102226-0001; OPP-000236, pg. 5-6].

Some statements made by former IRS students to the OPP during the 1990s investigation alleged that the boys who ran away in 1941 did so due to physical abuse suffered at the IRS.

[OPP-000020-0002; OPP-000122-0004, pg. 1-3; OPP-000195-0002, pg. 2; OPP-000195-0006, pg. 3-5; OPP-000195-0022; OPP-000195-0024; OPP-000195-0027; OPP-000195-0028; OPP-001336-0007, pg. 10-12; OPP-002080-0001, pg. 3; OPP-114130; OPP-102650-0001, pg. 2].

1942 Documents indicate that a female resident died of pulmonary tuberculosis caused by whooping cough and measles.

[FTA-035026-0000; FTA-035026-0001; FTA-035026-0002; FTA-035026-0003; FTA-035027; FTA-035030; FTA-001386].

Three statements provided to the OPP by former IRS residents who were siblings mentioned that abuse contributed to the student’s death. In a 1993 statement, a woman claimed that her sister died as a result of being beaten at the IRS. In another 1993 statement, a woman claimed that physical and psychological abuse her sister suffered at the IRS made her ill and contributed to her death from tuberculosis in 1942. In a 1995 statement, a woman claimed that her sister died from tuberculosis on May 9, 1942 and that beatings her sister received at the IRS made her

tuberculosis worse. The OPP was unable to locate information about the student's death at the Office of Registrar General.

[OPP-000130, pg. 182-183; OPP-000122-0008, pg. 1-5; OPP-103922; OPP-002127-0001; OPP-002068, pg. 101; OPP-114653-0000; OPP-114653-0004; OPP-116200].

1950s/60s Some former students who attended the IRS during the 1950s and 1960s stated that they were subject to unspecified harsh punishment if they were caught speaking Cree.

[FTA-000546, pg. 6].

1961 A Fort Albany resident made unspecified allegations that IRS residents were not well treated.

[FTA-000086; FTA-000089].

1971 In November, a male IRS teacher advised the federal government of an incident that involved himself, his wife – also an IRS teacher - and the families of two students. The students claimed that they had been mistreated and discriminated against, and one student alleged that a female staff member kicked her. The IRS staff members denied the accusations and the mothers of the students allegedly uttered threats.

[FTA-003009-0125].

1971 A federal government employee reported that community members told him that a male IRS teacher allegedly kept guns and live ammunition in class to scare the students. It was also alleged that the teacher had beaten one student during the 1970/71 academic term and had kicked another student.

[FTA-003009-0333].

1973 An employee was reprimanded for offering alcohol to a minor staying in residence and convincing her to drink it. The minor was not a student at the IRS, but was staying in residence until her parents returned from the trap line.

[FTA-003351-0496].

1974 The IRS Principal advised in a letter to a federal government official that a teacher at the IRS had been “charged” by a parent for allegedly kicking his child in the face. The Principal noted that while the boy was hurt by the teacher's foot during a physical education session, the incident was an accident.

[OPP-002050-0002].

Incidents (Student on Student)

Documents from the OPP investigation indicate that allegations of physical and sexual assault made by former IRS students against other former IRS students were reviewed but did not result in criminal charges.

[OPP-002010-0009; OPP-000129, pg. 232, 236-237; OPP-000130, pg. 63, 70; OPP-001002, pg. 176, 184; OPP-002066, pg. 42, 55, 93; 97, 108, 134-135, 164, 171, 185-186, 218-219; OPP-002067, pg. 75, 249, 268; OPP-002068, pg. 17, 94, 98, 142; OPP-002069, pg. 77, 79, 85, 119, 127-128, 132, 135, 226, 234-236, 242, 248, 263, 282; OPP-000161-0002, pg. 4, 9, 11-12, 20; OPP-000162-0003, pg. 7-8, 15, 17-19, 32; OPP-100326; OPP-001330-0001; OPP-103351].

1933 Four statements by former IRS residents during the OPP investigation referred to the death of one male resident. Two of these statements

claimed that the death was caused by violence. Please see Additional Information entry for 1933.

[OPP-000122-0008, pg. 1-3; OPP-002068, pg. 102; OPP-103922; OPP-000130, pg. 182-183].

1942 or 1943 In a 1993 statement to the OPP, a former IRS resident claimed to have witnessed the beating of a fellow student by four other IRS students while outside at a “camp” near the IRS. About a week later, the boy was admitted to hospital for unknown reasons and died. The OPP was unable to locate information about the student’s death at the Office of the Registrar General.

[OPP-102143-0000, OPP-102143-0001, pg. 3-7; OPP-002069, pg. 132, 234, 236; OPP-000162-0003, pg. 35-36; OPP-001169; OPP-001175; OPP-106106; OPP-102144-0000; OPP-102144-0001, pg. 2-4; OPP-002069, pg. 231; OPP-114653-0000; OPP-114653-0004; OPP-116200].

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Undated Statements to the OPP in 1993 referred to the deaths two female residents – one from tuberculosis and another of an unspecified cause in hospital - and a male resident (cause unspecified). The OPP was unable to locate information about the male student’s death at the Office of Registrar General.

[OPP-102815-0000; OPP-102815-0001; OPP-002069, pg. 257; OPP-114653-0000; OPP-114653-0004; OPP-116200; OPP-002113-0001; OPP-106096; OPP-000122-0008, pg. 6; OPP-103922; OPP-000122-0008, pg. 1; OPP-002068, pg. 104].

Undated An Oblate Priest and former IRS staff member noted in a 1992 statement to the OPP that most student deaths at the IRS were from tuberculosis. A deceased student would be “buried in the area where they died,” and those deaths were “registered in the mission registers” which were located “in Moosonee and at the church.”

[OPP-000195-0017; OPP-000195-0018, pg. 6].

Undated In a 1992 letter regarding the OPP investigation, a woman claimed that her uncle died of a broken neck while at the IRS, that five children from Winisk were taken to the IRS and had died the same year, and that two of her father’s siblings died at the IRS.

[OPP-116280].

1908; 1912 In 1908, consumption and scrofula were prevalent diseases at the IRS, and some were affected by scurvy. In 1912, two deaths at the IRS were attributed to consumption and scurvy.

[FTA-000119, pg. 4; FTA-000123, pg. 5].

1930s In a 1994 interview with the OPP, a man claimed that his sister died at the IRS.

[OPP-102925].

1933 Four statements provided to the OPP by former IRS residents in the 1990s referred to the death of one male IRS resident. The OPP was unable to locate information about the student’s death at the Office of Registrar General.

[OPP-000122-0008, pg. 1-3; OPP-002068, pg. 102; OPP-103922; OPP-001262, pg. 1, 4; OPP-116984; OPP-116977; OPP-000130, pg. 182-183; OPP-002127-0001, pg. 3; OPP-002068, pg. 100; OPP-114653-0000; OPP-114653-0004; OPP-116200].

1933 to 1939 In a 1994 statement to the OPP, a former IRS resident claimed that a 10 year old boy died from food poisoning. The OPP was unable to locate information about the student's death at the Office of the Registrar General.

[OPP-002068, pg. 255; OPP-100649; OPP-001262, pg. 4; OPP-116984; OPP-114653-0004; OPP-002068, pg. 255; OPP-114653-0000; OPP-114653-0004; OPP-116200].

1933 to 1939 In a 1993 statement to the OPP, a former IRS resident claimed that a female IRS student fell and hit her hip while sledding and died.

[OPP-001262, pg. 4; OPP-100648; OPP-117482; OPP-116984; OPP-114653-0004; OPP-117482; OPP-114653-0000; OPP-114653-0004; OPP-116200]

1930s A male resident died in hospital in Fort Albany in 1935. A female resident died from tuberculosis in May 1936. A male resident died in February 1937 of an unspecified illness. Two other residents - a girl and boy - died in May 1937 of unspecified causes.

[FTA-005415-0000; FTA-005415-0001; FTA-005415-0002; FTA-005414; FTA-005419-0000; FTA-005419-0001; FTA-005419-0002; FTA-005419-0003; FTA-005419-0004; FTA-005420; FTA-005428, pg. 3, 6-7; FTA-005200; FTA-005201].

1937 In a 1993 statement to the OPP, a former IRS resident claimed that a boy's ribs were injured on the playground, and he later became seriously sick and died.

[OPP-001336-0007, pg. 3-4, 7-8; OPP-117374].

1938; 1941 In a 1993 statement to the OPP, a former IRS resident claimed that one of his sisters had attended the IRS but "left and did not return." He also claimed that two of his other sisters who had attended the IRS died of "grief" a week apart in 1938. The man noted that his brother was one of the boys who disappeared from the IRS in 1941 and was never found.

[OPP-000195-0016]. See 1941 paragraph, below.

1941 Three boys had left the IRS without permission and were presumed to have drowned during the spring ice break up. See Incidents (Physical) 1941 to 1942 section for more information.

[FTA-005705; FTA-000115-0000; FTA-000115-0001; FTA-000102; FTA-000103; FTA-000105-0000; FTA-000105-0001; FTA-000107-0000; FTA-000107-0001; FTA-000106; FTA-000111; FTA-000112; FTA-000113; FTA-000114; FTA-000116-0000 to FTA-000116-0016; OPP-000135; OPP-002060-0041; OPP-002060-0042; OPP-002060-0043; OPP-002060-0046; OPP-000020-0002; OPP-000076-0002; OPP-000122-0004, pg. 1-3; OPP-000157, pg. 2; OPP-000195-0002, pg. 2; OPP-000195-0004; OPP-000195-0006, pg. 3-5; OPP-000195-0008; OPP-000195-0013; OPP-000195-0015, pg. 3-4; OPP-000195-0016, pg. 2; OPP-000195-0018, pg. 1-2; OPP-000195-0022; OPP-000195-0024; OPP-000195-0026; OPP-000195-0027; OPP-000195-0028; OPP-000195-0030, pg. 3; OPP-000195-0032; OPP-001336-0007, pg. 10-12; OPP-002068, pg. 109; OPP-002073-0002, pg. 5-6; OPP-002091-0001, OPP-002093-0001; OPP-002164-0001; OPP-101053; OPP-102226-0001; OPP-103282; OPP-102330-0001].

1942 In May, two male IRS residents died from pulmonary tuberculosis caused by measles and whooping cough.

[FTA-035027; FTA-035030; FTA-001386; FTA-035031-0000; FTA-035031-0001; FTA-035031-0002; FTA-035031-0003; FTA-035031-0004; FTA-035027; FTA-035030; FTA-001386; FTA-035031-0000; FTA-035031-0005; FTA-035031-0006; FTA-035031-0007; FTA-035031-0008].

1950s Pre-school age children in need of care in the Albany area stayed at the IRS temporarily under the auspices of the Albany Roman Catholic Mission or the Albany Roman Catholic Mission Orphanage. The orphanage was operated by the Oblate Missionaries, though temporary admissions were often approved by the federal Education Division to simplify the admission of payments to the Oblates for care services. The federal government indicated that in such cases, children should be placed in foster homes but were permitted to stay at the IRS if that could not be arranged. The

federal Superintendent of Education stated in June 1958 that admitting pre-school age children “should not be treated as the admission of school age children”, and that the admission and discharge of these children should be governed by the arrangements for placing children in foster homes and the Children’s Aid Plan.

[FTA-000061-0000; FTA-000061-0001; FTA-000062; FTA-000063; FTA-000065; FTA-000060; FTA-000069].

1959 In a 1993 statement to the OPP, a former social worker with the Children’s Aid Society (CAS) claimed that sometime in 1959 or shortly thereafter, all CAS wards residing at the IRS were removed from the IRS and placed in foster homes. Approximately 15 or 16 children were relocated.

[OPP-103449; OPP-101021].

1958; 1960s The federal government encouraged the creation of school committees on reserves, including those in the James Bay Agency. The purpose of School Committees was to conduct local education affairs, to provide the community more responsibility in the development of education facilities, and to encourage proper use of government and band funds for educational purposes. The School Committee was to assume active responsibility regarding issues such as attendance, truancy, care of school property, etc. A “School-Home” meeting was held at the St. Anne’s (Fort Albany) IRS in December 1969.

[FTA-000597-0001; FTA-000597-0002; FTA-000597-0003; FTA-000601; FTA-000602; FTA-000596; FTA-000595; FTA-000355-0000; FTA-000355-0001; FTA-000355-0002].

1960s to 1970s Many day students lived on Sinclair Island, a community separated from the IRS by a section of the Albany River, and this river was crossed to attend the classrooms at the IRS. While the river had a dry bed in the mid-summer and mid-winter, this crossing became dangerous during the spring ice break-up. As a result, many day students stayed at the IRS during the ice break-up for up to 6 weeks, though it was typically 2 to 4 weeks.

[FTA-000196, pg. 5; FTA-000248; FTA-000250; FTA-000228-0002; FTA-000293-0001; FTA-000406; FTA-000381; FTA-000397; FTA-000400-0002; FTA-000398; FTA-000405; FTA-000483-0001; FTA-000848, pg. 10; FTA-000849, pg. 12; FTA-000009, pg. 13-15; FTA-000851, pg. 12-13; FTA-000855, pg. 14-16; FTA-000860, pg. 10-11; FTA-000864, pg. 8-9; OPP-103437; OPP-102276-0001].

1964 Parents of IRS residents complained about the poor condition of their children’s clothing.

[FTA-000254; FTA-000255].

1966 to 1973 In a 1993 statement to the OPP, a former IRS resident who attended from 1966 to 1973 claimed that a senior male student died at the IRS from a heart condition from running around a field.

[OPP-001366-0001; OPP-001366-0002; OPP-116161]. Documents do not conclusively indicate that this was the same incident as the student death on June 22, 1967 (see Additional Information, 1967).

1967 A Principal’s Monthly Report indicated that a male resident died on June 22. The medical certificate of death stated that the boy died of a ruptured pulmonary artery following acute exertion. Several statements provided to the OPP during the 1990s investigation mentioned the death of the boy at the IRS; some claimed that he died while running on the field during gym class, and that he was forced to run by a teacher.

[FTA-000683; OPP-001406-0002; OPP-001406-0003; OPP-002069, pg. 258; OPP-000130, pg. 75; 83-84; OPP-000117-0001; OPP-000117-0002, pg. 2; OPP-001352-0003; OPP-001406-0001; OPP-002190-0002, pg. 5-6; OPP-106096; OPP-114094; OPP-103993; OPP-116446; OPP-102638-

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0001].

1970; 1973 A night watchman was employed at the IRS.

[FTA-000584; FTA-000582-0001]

1970/71 Applications to the IRS were to be reviewed by a committee consisting of federal government representatives, Social and Family Services, the IRS Administrator, and the Bands along the James Bay coast.

[FTA-000388; FTA-000391].

1972 or 1973 In a 1993 statement to the OPP, a former IRS student claimed that a boy in her class drowned when he fell through the ice while skating.

[OPP-002114-0001, pg. 4-5].

1974 In October 1974, a male resident drowned in the Albany River after falling through the ice while skating. Several statements provided to the OPP during the 1990s investigation also recalled the drowning death of the boy.

[FTA-001096; OPP-000089-0001; OPP-000089-0002; OPP-002068, pg. 75; OPP-103659; OPP-001363-0003; OPP-002042-0001; OPP-117065; OPP-106096].

1974 The Fort Albany Band formed a “permanent School Committee” in March. One of the duties of the committee was to liaise between parents and the IRS.

[FTA-000464; FTA-000465; FTA-000603, pg. 2].

1975 There was concern about the improper use of firearms at the IRS. The federal government advised that fire arm training must be done under strict supervision and the instructor must be qualified and competent. There were also allegations of drug use by IRS staff.

[FTA-000493].

1977 A Day School continued to operate in Fort Albany after the IRS closed.

[FTA-000525].

1978 Two years after the IRS closed, a restaurant operated in part of the former IRS building.

[FTA-000592].

1981 The former IRS lands and building became part of the Fort Albany Indian Reserve No. 67.

[FTA-000536; FTA-000642-0000; FTA-000642-0001; FTA-000642-0002; FTA-000579; FTA-000570].

1982 to 1988 The federal government leased part of the ground floor of the former IRS building to the OPP from November 1982 to October 1987. The building was leased for an additional year, from November 1987 to October 1988.

[FTA-000641-0000; FTA-000641-0001; FTA-000641-0002; FTA-000641-0003; FTA-000639-0000; FTA-000638-0000; FTA-000638-0001; FTA-000638-0002; FTA-000638-0003; FTA-000638-0004; FTA-000638-0005].

1988 to 1990s On the recommendation of Health and Welfare Canada, a team was sent to the St. Anne’s School at the site of the former IRS to deal with the problem of asbestos in the classrooms. In 1989, the school was renovated

but concern by the Fort Albany First Nation regarding unfavorable conditions in the building continued into the 1990s.

[FTA-000551; FTA-000573; FTA-000570; FTA-000558; FTA-000560-0000; FTA-000560-0001; FTA-000569; FTA-000570; FTA-000576].

1992 A November 25, 1992 Memo to File from the federal “Funding Services” office concerning a meeting between the “First Nation” and the Ministry of Northern Development for the use of the former IRS building makes brief mention of the “Report of the Testimonial Panel (Abuse at St. Anne’s school. Report turned over to police)” [FTA-000568]. Please see the introductory paragraph to Documents Referring to School Incidents regarding the OPP investigation for the allegations of abuse summarized in the Report of the Testimonial Panel

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
F.X. Fafard, O.M.I.	Principal	1906 to 1908
Reverend Leo Carriere, O.M.I.	Principal	1908 to 1909
Sister St. Hilaire	Principal	1909 to 1910
Reverend Leo Carriere, O.M.I.	Principal	1910 to 1918
Reverend L. Ph. Martel, O.M.I.	Principal	1918 to 1922
Reverend Leo Carriere, O.M.I.	Principal	1922 to 1925
Reverend A.R. Bilodeau, O.M.I.	Principal	1925 to early 1939
Reverend Paul Langlois, O.M.I.	Principal	June 1939 to November 1945
Reverend Jules Leguerrier, O.M.I.	Principal	December 1945 to 1955
Reverend Father Jean-Baptiste Gagnon, O.M.I.	Principal	1955 to 1967
Reverend Father Real Paiement, O.M.I.	Principal	February 1967 to April 1969
	Administrator	April 1969 to December 1970
Marcel Paul Fillion	Administrator	January 1971 to August 1972
Roland Harpe	Administrator	1972 to 1974
Dorothy Freeman and Lauder Smith	Administrators; served as an “administrative team” [FTA-000485].	February 1975 to July 1975
Gordon Bruyere	Administrator	1975 to June 1976

Narrative Completed: October 22, 2012

Narrative Updated: August 1, 2014

¹ FTA is the database prefix for AANDC’s St. Anne’s (Fort Albany) IRS document collection. The FTA documents referenced in this narrative are comprised of documents from AANDC’s historical collection, as well as Department of Justice transcripts and civil litigation documents obtained in accordance with the Ontario Superior Court of Justice ruling, January 14, 2014 (*Fontaine v. Canada 2014 ONSC 283*).

² OPP is the database prefix for AANDC’s Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) investigation document collection. These documents were obtained in accordance with the Ontario Superior Court of Justice ruling, January 14, 2014 (*Fontaine v. Canada 2014 ONSC 283*).

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



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