

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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**St. Anthony's (Onion Lake) Roman Catholic Indian Residential School
IAP School Narrative**

NAME IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (Schedule E/F)

St. Anthony's (Onion Lake, Sacred Heart)

OTHER NAMES KNOWN AS (AKAs)

1895 to 1924	Onion Lake Roman Catholic Boarding School [ORC-008089; ORC-004040; ORC-010158-0000]
1931 to 1968	St. Anthony's (Onion Lake) Indian Residential School [ORC-058544-0001; ORC-007619-0000; ORC-000368, pg. 1-2]
1969 to 1974	St. Anthony's (Onion Lake) Student Residence [ORC-008557; ORC-008741]

LOCATION

1894 to 1927	The IRS was located on the Seekaskootch, Onion Lake, Reserve, about 12 miles from Fort Pitt on the north side of the Saskatchewan River [ORC-000257].
1927 to 1974	The IRS was located one and a half miles north of the southwest corner of the Seekaskootch Reserve. The new location was approximately four miles south of the original location of the IRS, and 33 miles north of the town of Lloydminster [ORC-008811; ORC-008806-0000; ORC-008806-0001; ORC-008806-0002; ORC-008768].

PROVINCE/TERRITORY

Saskatchewan

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, 1894 to July 15, 1974

OPERATING DATES CONTEXT

St. Anthony's (Onion Lake) IRS opened on July 1, 1894 [ORC-000251, pg. 3, ORC-000771, pg. 4]. As of 1955, a new classroom block was in operation and both residents and day pupils received classroom instruction at the IRS [ORC-008563]. The IRS closed on July 15, 1974. The demolition of the former IRS student residence began in August [ORC-000771, pg. 8; ORC-000288, ORC-008741].

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

Roman Catholic Church

1894 to 1934 Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (Sœurs de

l'Assomption de la Sainte Vierge) [ORC-000295; ORC-000282; ORC-000839, pg. 1; ORC-000399; ORC-000291; ORC-000788]

1934 to 1969 Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (Oblats de Marie-Immaculée and the Sœurs de l'Assomption de la Sainte Vierge), and later the Oblate Indian and Eskimo Council (INDIANESCOM) [ORC-000797, pg. 192-197; ORC-000839, pg. 25, 26; ORC-000788; ORC-006051; ORC-000359]

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Date	Event	Document Reference
July 1, 1894	The IRS at Onion Lake opened under the management of the Roman Catholic Sisters of the Assumption.	ORC-000251, pg. 3 ORC-000295
1896	In the fall, a new IRS building had been completed and occupied.	ORC-000253
June 30, 1899	The IRS was situated on 4 acres of fenced Reserve land that the Onion Lake Band permitted the federal government to use for educational purposes.	ORC-000257, pg.2
March 30, 1911	The federal government and the Bishop of St. Albert signed an agreement for the operation of the IRS.	ORC-004040
August 1, 1927	The IRS was re-located one and half miles north of the southwest corner of the Seekaskootch Reserve on the SW1/4 of Section 8, Township 54, Range 27, West of the third Meridian. The new location was approximately four miles south of the original location of the IRS, and 33 miles north of the town of Lloydminster.	ORC-008811 ORC-008806-0000 ORC-008806-0001 ORC-008806-0002 ORC-008768
1927 to 1929	The construction of the new IRS building began during the 1927/1928 fiscal year and was complete during the 1928/1929 fiscal year.	ORC-000319 ORC-000269
February 9, 1928	The old residence and church burned down.	ORC-000839, pg. 16
1932	The federal government provided all the necessary equipment for farming on the IRS land. The Sisters hired and paid for three men, a farmer, electrician and baker, who would also supervise the boys in their dormitory.	ORC-00839, pg. 23
January 31, 1934	The Principal deemed the IRS a fire hazard and requested a grant for a night watchman, which was approved by the federal government.	ORC-000334 ORC-000335
April 1, 1934	The administration of the IRS was transferred from the Sisters of the Assumption to the Oblate Fathers. An agreement was signed between the Oblate Fathers and the Sisters of the Assumption, encompassing three residential schools, including the Onion Lake IRS. The IRS was to operate under general direction of a Reverend Father Principal, designated by the Oblate Fathers. The Sisters were responsible for the interior running of the IRS including teaching, healthcare, food services, and supervision of residents under the direction of the IRS Principal.	ORC-000797, pg. 192-97 ORC-000788 ORC-000839, pg. 27, 40-41 ORC-006051
March 1, 1950	There was a fire in the stable which damaged the roof. The Nuns reported that there was no electricity for weeks.	ORC-000799, pg. 161
September to	A new four classroom block had been built at the IRS for the 1955/56 school year. The opening of the IRS for the	ORC-000799, pg. 167 ORC-008994

December 1955	school year had been delayed since the classroom block was not yet ready. The students started to arrive on October 2 and classes began at the IRS on November 10.	ORC-008563 ORC-000375 ORC-060257
January 9, 1958	The IRS installed a telephone.	ORC-000799, pg. 169
March 1958	Day pupils had lunch in the IRS refectory with the residential pupils.	ORC-007583, pg. 4
September 25, 1962	The federal government and the Oblate Indian and Eskimo Council (INDIANESCOM) signed an agreement for the operation of the IRS.	ORC-000359
November 29, 1968	The main floor of the IRS contained 3 classrooms.	ORC-000973, pg. 2
1969 to 1974	Yearly contracts were signed between the federal government and the Reverend Father, Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Onion Lake for chaplaincy services at the IRS.	ORC-000286 ORC-058701-0001 ORC-058702-0001 ORC-058700 ORC-008903
April 1, 1969	The management of the IRS transferred to the federal government, and the administration of the residence and the classroom block was separated. The IRS Principal had become the Administrator of the residence, while the Senior Teacher had become the Principal of the classroom block.	ORC-000287-0000 ORC-000287-0004 NCA-008943-0005 ORC-000996 ORC-000997 ORC-001088, pg. 2 ORC-000673, pg. 2, 5
September 30, 1969	The September Quarterly Return indicates that the number of students in the residence dropped by approximately one half to 58, while the total enrolment of students receiving classroom instruction remained consistent.	ORC-000089 ORC-001009
November 17, 1969	A meeting was held between the Onion Lake School Committee and representatives of the federal government to discuss the possible closure of the IRS. The federal government indicated that since the residence posed a fire hazard and had high maintenance and operating costs, it was a candidate for closure.	ORC-000959
January 29, 1974	A Band Council Resolution requested that the IRS be closed on June 30, 1974.	ORC-000289-0001
January 7, 1974	It was decided jointly by the Onion Lake Band Council and the federal government that the IRS will be closed July 15 1974.	ORC-000288
July 15, 1974	The IRS closed July 15, 1974, and demolition of the IRS residence began on August 27, 1974.	ORC-000771 p. 8; ORC-000288, ORC-008741 ORC-000820, pg 87-88

EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

Grades taught at the Indian residential school

School Years	Grades offered	Document Reference
1894/95 to 1896/97	No information found	
1897/98	1 to 6	ORC-000256
1898/99 to 1916/17	No information found	
1917/18	1 to 3, 5 to 6	ORC-000265
1918/19 to 1921/22	No information found	
1922/23	1 to 5	ORC-058508-0000
1923/24	No information found	
1928/29 to 1929/30	1 to 6	ORC-000399

		ORC-000270
1930/31	1 to 5	ORC-000271
1931/32 to 1933/34	1 to 6	ORC-000272 ORC-000273
1934/35	No information found	
1935/36	1 to 7	ORC-000274
1936/37	No information found	
1937/38	Kindergarten, 1 to 6	ORC-004201
1938/39 to 1941/42	1 to 8	PAR-003489 ORC-007499 ORC-000004
1942/43	1 to 8	ORC-000008
1943/44	1 to 7	ORC-000012
1944/45	1 to 8	ORC-000015
1945/46 to 1946/47	1 to 7	ORC-000020 ORC-000021
1947/48	1 to 8	ORC-000028
1948/49	1 to 7	ORC-000032
1949/50 to 1951/52	1 to 8	ORC-000036 ORC-007503
1952/53 to 1957/58	Kindergarten, 1 to 8	ORC-001406 ORC-060243 ORC-060250 ORC-060259 ORC-060276 ORC-060297
1958/59 to 1959/60	Kindergarten, 1 to 9	ORC-060310 ORC-060321
1960/61 to 1972/73	Kindergarten, 1 to 8	ORC-060334 ORC-060348 ORC-060359 ORC-060369 ORC-060379 ORC-060389 ORC-060400 ORC-060410 ORC-000999 ORC-001009 ORC-001018-0000 ORC-001030-0000 ORC-001042
1973/74	Kindergarten, 1 to 3	ORC-001051-0000

Other Schools Attended by Residents

Please note that the new classroom block that was built at the IRS in 1955 was used to instruct both residents and day pupils. Though this classroom block was located on IRS property and was considered part of the IRS, it was sometimes referred to on documents as Onion Lake R.C. Indian Residential and Day School. Before the construction of the IRS classroom block, pupils attended classes in the main IRS building [ORC-008563; ORC-000375; ORC-060262].

School Years	Name of School	Location	Administration	Grades	Document
1968/69	High School at Paradise Hill	Paradise Hill, Saskatchewan	No information found	9 to 12	ORC-000984 ORC-001522, pg. 4, 7
1973/74	Onion Lake Central School	Onion Lake, Saskatchewan	No information found	4 to 9	ORC-007289-0000 ORC-000820, pg. 76

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

School Years	Number of Residents	If applicable, day scholars	Document Reference
1894	20	25 (average)	ORC-000282 ORC-000295
1898	45	No information found	ORC-000256
1903 and 1904	50	No information found	ORC-000260 ORC-000261
1908	53	No information found	ORC-000262
1909	54	No information found	ORC-000263
1910	49	No information found	ORC-000264
1918	55	No information found	ORC-000265
1920	85	No information found	ORC-000399
1924 - 1926	55 (average)	No information found	ORC-000342-0001, pg. 2 ORC-000346-0001
1928	76	No information found	ORC-000268
1930	118	No information found	ORC-000270
1931	126	No information found	ORC-000271
1932	135	No information found	ORC-000272
1934	133	No information found	ORC-000273
1936 and 1937	153	No information found	ORC-000274 ORC-000275
1938	No information found	No information found	
1939	151	No information found	PAR-003489
1940	No information found	No information found	
1940/41	133	No information found	ORC-007499, pg. 12, 13
1941/42	138	No information found	ORC-000004, pg. 7
1942/43	153	No information found	ORC-000008, pg. 8
1943/44	139	No information found	ORC-000012, pg. 7
1944/45	135	No information found	ORC-000016, pg. 7
1945/46	110	No information found	ORC-000020, pg. 6
1946/47	99	No information found	ORC-000024, pg. 6
1947/48	104	No information found	ORC-000028, pg. 6
1948/49	127	No information found	ORC-000032, pg. 6
1949/50	133	No information found	ORC-000036, pg. 6
1950/51	135	No information found	ORC-007501, pg. 10, 11
1951/52	148	No information found	ORC-007505, pg. 12, 13
1952/53	131	No information found	ORC-007509, pg. 10, 11
1953/54	149	4	ORC-007513, pg. 12, 13 ORC-060243
1954/55	138	4	ORC-060250
1955/56	131	53	ORC-060259
1956/57	131	44	ORC-060276
1957/58	146	44	ORC-060297
1958/59	146	42	ORC-060310
1959/60	159	70	ORC-060321
1960/61	153	70	ORC-060334
1961/62	146	70	ORC-060348

1962/63	129	81	ORC-060359
1963/64	135	100	ORC-060369
1964/65	136	116	ORC-060379
1965/66	128	164	ORC-060389
1966/67	125	291	ORC-000080, pg. 1 ORC-060400
1967/68	106	316	ORC-000084, pg. 1 ORC-060410
1968/69	104	317	ORC-007519, pg. 1 ORC-000999
1969/70	58	266	ORC-000089, pg. 1 ORC-001009
1970/71	45	267	ORC-000094, pg. 1 ORC-001018-0000
1971/72	46	300	ORC-000095, pg. 1 ORC-001030-0000
1972/73	48	302	ORC-000096, pg. 1 ORC-001042
1973/74	48	160	ORC-000098, pg. 1 ORC-001051-0000

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

School Years	Special Programs Offered	Document Reference
1950s	Students participated in Girl Guides and Brownies at the IRS.	ORC-000771, pg. 7, 8
April 2, 1952	A hockey rink had been installed at the IRS and regular hockey games were held.	ORC-000382
March 1958	There were four Girl Guide Patrols operating at the IRS, each of which had seven girls.	ORC-007583, pg. 6
January to February 1964	The IRS hockey team played games against the teams from Tulliby Lake and Frenchman Butte.	ORC-004847, pg. 130, 131
June 30, 1966	The IRS was not in full session for one day due to the Paradise Hill Sports Day.	ORC-060389
March 11, 1967	The Mother Superior and two Sisters from the IRS travelled to Vermillion where a convention of Guide Leaders took place, demonstrating that there was still a Girl Guides program at the IRS.	ORC-004848, pg. 127
June 30, 1967	The IRS was not in session for one day due to a Sports Elimination Day at Paradise Hill.	ORC-060400

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Date	Event	Document Reference
June 30, 1896	The IRS was described as 45 x 35 feet and 3 stories high. The first floor had 2 rooms: one for a classroom and the other a refectory. Both rooms were also used for recreation, one for the boys and the other for the girls. The second floor was divided into 2 rooms: one was a dormitory for the boys and the other a working room for the girls. The garret, 45 x 35 feet, was used as a dormitory for the girls.	ORC-000253 ORC-000338
April 2, 1898	Due to an increase in enrolment the IRS was described as overcrowded with the dining room being used as a second classroom.	ORC-008093

March 31, 1908	<p>There were three separate buildings connected by winding staircases, from the top to the bottom of each building. The main building was 45 x 35 feet, 3 stories high. The first floor had a junior classroom and a pupils' dining room. The second floor had a senior classroom, a girls' sewing and recreation room, and a pupils' infirmary. The third floor was used as the girls' dormitory.</p> <p>The second building was 36 x 26 feet, 33 feet high, and was attached to the storehouses and pantries. On the first floor were staff dining rooms, and a kitchen. The second floor had the chapel for the Sisters and pupils. The third floor had the boys' dormitory.</p> <p>The third building is a log structure, 25 x 30 feet, 2 storeys, and it was occupied by the Sisters.</p>	<p>ORC-000262 ORC-000264</p>
January 19, 1924	<p>Early in the year, requests were submitted to the federal government to reconstruct the IRS. The building was described as a cold, unhealthy fire trap that may be a source of danger for the children. The federal government responded that it would be two or three years before a new building could be built.</p>	<p>ORC-000342-0000 ORC-000343 ORC-000344</p>
September 22, 1926	<p>A federal Regional Inspector found the IRS building had "surely fulfilled its purpose" and that a new IRS building was badly required. The federal government authorized funds to install inexpensive flooring for the time being.</p>	<p>ORC-000346-0000 ORC-000346-0001</p>
September 22, 1926	<p>The IRS had a large garden which supplied the residence with vegetables. There were also 10 milking cows, a large flock of poultry along with raising pigs.</p>	<p>ORC-000346-0001</p>
April 13, 1927	<p>An Onion Lake Band Council Resolution agreed to surrender 640 acres of the Onion Lake (Seekaskootch, Makao) Reserve to the federal government for educational purposes only. The federal government described the land as the best on the Reserve for farming and had a stream running through the land. The property was located on the SW1/4 of Section 8, Township 54, Range 27, West of the third Meridian.</p>	<p>ORC-008806-0000 ORC-008806-0001 ORC-008806-0002 ORC-008813 ORC-000336 ORC-000351 ORC-000354 ORC-008811</p>
August 1, 1927	<p>The IRS site moved to approximately one and one half miles north of the south west corner of the reserve. Land was comprised of the southwest corner of Seekaskooch and south east section of Makado Reserves. The IRS was located on the SW1/4 of Section 8, Township 54, Range 27, West of the third Meridian.</p>	<p>ORC-008794 ORC-008795-0000 ORC-008795-0001 ORC-008798-0000 ORC-008768</p>
1927 to 1929	<p>The construction of the new IRS building began during the 1927/1928 fiscal year and was complete during the 1928/1929 fiscal year.</p>	<p>ORC-000319 ORC-000269</p>
February 9, 1928	<p>The old IRS residence and church burned down.</p>	<p>ORC-000839, pg. 16</p>
September 24, 1929	<p>Three classrooms were in use in the new IRS building: junior, intermediate, and senior rooms. These three rooms continued to operate until at least October 1935.</p>	<p>ORC-058519-0001 ORC-058544-0001 ORC-008195</p>
November 14, 1932	<p>An inspection report noted that 640 acres of land had been set aside for the IRS. According to the report, the area was fenced in by a four strand barbed wire fence strung on cedar posts. Approximately 190 acres were used for the IRS' farming operations. Livestock consisting of 45 cattle, 80 hogs, approximately 150 poultry and seven work horses were also kept at the</p>	<p>ORC-000336</p>

	IRS in association with the farming operations.	
October 28, 1937	Four classrooms were in use at the IRS, including a kindergarten classroom.	ORC-004201
July 17, 1939	One hundred acres of IRS land was under cultivation for farming, with an additional 100 acres rented from the Oblates for farming and pasture in association with the IRS.	ORC-007605-0001
October 18, 1940	Farming operations at the IRS consisted of 200 acres under cultivation, with five quarter sections rented from the Oblates for pasture and farming.	ORC-007606-0001
December 10, 1942	Eight hundred acres of land were rented from the Oblate Fathers; 200 acres were cultivation as part of the farming operations associated with the IRS.	ORC-007609-0001 ORC-007611-0001 ORC-007613-0001
September 16, 1943	The Oblate Fathers owned "five quarters" of land located on the Alberta side of the Meridian line, and this land was used by the IRS. Two hundred acres of the Alberta land was farmed and the balance was used for pasture.	ORC-000385
July 20, 1944	A 16 x 24 foot frame building used for vocational training was built.	ORC-000300
October 8, 1948	A total of 725 acres was rented from the Oblates for use as part of the farming operations at the IRS. Wheat, oats, barley, and summerfallow were cultivated. Livestock included beef cattle, milk cows, pigs, and horses.	ORC-008273-0005
November 1950	The condition of the IRS septic tank was described as "very disgraceful." The inside toilets had not been used for the past two years. The waste water from the IRS ran through the septic tank which was blocked, and waste water was escaping through the inspection ports on the top. The area surrounding the tank was described as slushy and dirty. This condition continued until at least 1952.	ORC-000299 ORC-000382
1951	An apartment near the chapel became a classroom.	ORC-000799, pg. 18
January 21, 1952	A report by federal government Inspector of Indian Schools indicated that the classroom space at the IRS was too small and unsuitable.	ORC-000418-0000 ORC-000418-0001 ORC-000418-0002
September 1952	Four classrooms were in use at the IRS.	ORC-001406
November 25, 1953	The IRS Principal noted that his predecessor had been using an attic as a fourth classroom for beginners. In September 1951, the federal Regional Inspector had previously condemned this classroom.	ORC-000380, pg. 2
1953 to 1954	A log cabin/house was built on the IRS grounds. It served as a home economics and manual training classroom and later as a storage facility.	ORC-000938-0002
1955	A new four-classroom block had opened. This new building was for instructing both residents and day students living on the reserve. Seven classrooms in total were in operation, with three classrooms located in the main IRS building.	ORC-008563 ORC-000375 ORC-060257
March 25, 1958	Farm land previously rented from the Oblate Order had been returned to the Order and only IRS land was farmed in 1958.	ORC-008419-0001 ORC-008780

July 1958	The new Home Economics room in the classroom block was completed. The former Home Economics building had been used as a remedial classroom.	ORC-008188
October 1959	Showers were installed for both the boys and girls. No information was provided with respect to the location of the new showers.	ORC-000799, pg. 64
October 29, 1964	A tractor and gas pump caught on fire but caused minimal damage.	ORC-004847, pg. 151, 152
December 1965	The log cabin, measuring 24 X 21 feet was used as a grade 4 classroom for both residents and day students.	ORC-007591, pg. 13 ORC-008262-0000
November, 1966	The construction of two prefabricated classrooms and two teacherages began in November 1966 and was completed in February 1967.	ORC-008660 ORC-008636-0000 ORC-008632
November 1966	The IRS had 11 classrooms in three buildings, with one class in a small log building on the grounds. One kindergarten class used the stage of the assembly hall which was described as unsuitable.	ORC-000666
September 1967	The main IRS building was described as being in deplorable condition, and repairs were needed to the four classroom block built in 1955 and the staff residences.	ORC-001516
September 28, 1967	Due to the unfinished condition of the two portable classrooms constructed the previous year, they were deemed dangerous for occupancy and to the children playing around them.	ORC-001517
November 1968	The IRS consisted of the main IRS residence, a detached classroom block, and two one-classroom buildings. The IRS residence building included a basement and was three stories in height. The main floor of the main IRS building contained 3 classrooms. The classroom block building is one story with a basement.	ORC-000973
1968	The IRS was located on the north east shore of a small lake. The exterior was a frame structure, flat roof, asbestos tile siding, 2-story wings with a 3-story centre and a full basement. The foundation was concrete and above grade. The heating units were radiators which were described as generally very poor with reports of leaks in various locations in the building. The boys had no toilet seats. The sewage from the main IRS building, a classroom block and teacherages was discharged into a septic tank; effluent from this tank was run off by gravity into the small lake at the front of the IRS. The lighting was mostly exposed incandescent lamps in dormitories, hallways, stairs, community room, chapel, dining room, recreation rooms, kitchen and laundry.	ORC-000368, pg. 2-6, 10-11, 15
1970	IRS consisted of the main residential building with three rooms on the main floor used as classrooms, a detached four-classroom classroom block with two additional classrooms in the basement, and two ATCO transportable single classroom buildings. The other buildings in close proximity to these buildings were: the pump-house, a storage garage, three storage buildings and a barn (which was converted into a curling arena). There were five single family residences located about 300 feet from the main IRS building, and a number of additional buildings which were owned by the Church but were remote from the IRS.	ORC-000369

1971 to 1972	Ownership of dwelling # 597, a one story, two bedroom residence that was built by the Oblate Fathers was contested. Efforts were made by federal government to determine ownership of the property. In 1972 it was rented to a teacher	ORC-000938-0001 ORC-008122 ORC-008209 ORC-008827
July 1971	The federal government owned 7 teacherages at the IRS, one of which was transferred to the local Band.	ORC-008849-0001
August 24, 1971	A former Nursing Station was turned over to the Band.	ORC-008850 ORC-008852-0001
April 11, 1972	The IRS was described as a main student residence with dormitories, kitchen facilities and two classrooms; a four classroom block with four additional classrooms in the basement and teacherage on second floor; two one-classroom portables; six teacherages; one fire equipment building; one warehouse; one (two bat) garage and one curling rink.	ORC-008759
August 27, 1974	The demolition of the former IRS residence began.	ORC-000820, pg. 88

PHOTOS, PLANS AND LAYOUT

Date	Description	Document Reference
June 18, 1894	Diagram of proposed new school/nunnery	ORC-000781-0001
February 1904	Diagram of reserves	ORC-008812
Circa 1915	Diagram of basement and foundation	ORC-004044
Circa 1915	Diagram of front elevation	ORC-004043
Circa 1915	Diagram of ground floor	ORC-004045
Circa 1915	Diagram of floor plan	ORC-004046
Circa 1915	Diagram of second floor	ORC-004047
June 16, 1927	Diagram of reserve land set aside for the IRS	ORC-008798-0001
May 9, 1927	Sketch of land surrendered for the new IRS which shows the distance from the old Roman Catholic mission and IRS.	ORC-008806-0002
Circa 1928	Diagram of front and side elevation	ORC-004049
Circa 1928	Diagram of foundation, elevation and second floor	ORC-004050
Circa 1928	Basement plan	ORC-004051
Circa 1928	Diagram of ground floor	ORC-004052
Circa 1928	First Floor Plan	ORC-004053
March 17, 1955	Site plan for new 4 classroom block with teacherage, 1955	ORC-004048
Circa 1958	Diagram of teacherage	ORC-058609-0002
Circa 1958	Diagram of teacherage and IRS grounds	ORC-008773-0001 ORC-008773-0002
Circa 1958	Plan of log house	ORC-000938-0003
Circa 1961	Diagram of nursing station/teacherage	ORC-058608-0001
December 13, 1962	Diagram of 4 bedroom teacherage, 1962	ORC-008473-0001

April 3, 1963	Diagram of teacherage	ORC-008473-0002 ORC-008473-0003
Circa 1963	Plan of engineers house	ORC-000938-0007
1966	Diagram of mobile classroom, 1966	ORC-008667-0001
Circa 1971	Diagram of private entrance	ORC-001124-0001
Circa 1972	Diagram showing needed changes at the IRS	ORC-000918-0002
Circa 1973	Sketch of portable classroom	ORC-001114-0001
Circa 1975	Diagram of buildings and roads, circa 1975	ORC-001145-0003

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at St. Anthony's (Onion Lake Roman Catholic), Onion Lake, Saskatchewan, 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)

No information found

Incidents (Physical)

1963 On March 30, 1963, four girls had run away from the IRS. These girls were apprehended after an hour and a half by 2 priests and 2 “fellows”, followed by a “good punishment” [ORC-004847, pg. 24-25, and ORC-000799, pg. 110].

Incidents (Student on student)

No information found

Truancy

September 1917 Four older boys run off and return over the course of the next two days [ORC-000797, pg. 79-80].

1932 Five older girls were reported as having deserted one spring evening. The same evening, with assistance from other staff members a Sister formed a search party that was unsuccessful in finding the girls. Two days later an Indian person from Frog Lake visited the IRS and indicated that the girls were being cared for by a family at Frog Lake. The girls were returned to the IRS [ORC-000839, pg. 40].

1934 On February 20, 1934, three boys, later joined by a fourth boy, had run away from the IRS. The boys were returned on February 22 under the care of the Turtleford detachment of the R.C.M.P. [ORC-000324-0000; ORC-000324-0001; ORC-000324-0002; ORC-000324-0003]. An R.C.M.P. report indicated that a boy had run away from the IRS on September 1, 1934, and was located at his mother’s home at Cold Lake, Alberta. Arrangements were made to return the child to the IRS in mid September [ORC-000326-0000; ORC-000326-0001].

1935 In March 1935, various R.C.M.P reports indicated that a male and female

- student were absent without permission from the IRS. The female student was returned to the IRS by her father while at the time of writing the male student remained absent [ORC-000325-0000; ORC-000325-0001; ORC-000325-0002]. In September 1935, R.C.M.P reports indicated that a woman had removed her daughter from the IRS without permission and was fined as a consequence [ORC-000327-0000; ORC-000327-0001].
- 1938 In September 1938, the RCMP were asked to assist IRS authorities to locate and bring back a male pupil who had run away from the IRS. The boy was located and brought back to the IRS [ORC-000322-0000; ORC-000322-0001]. Three boys had run away from the IRS on October 1. They had run away on previous occasions. Arrangements were made to go to Frog Lake and Long Lake to bring them back and this occurred on October 4 [ORC-000323].
- April 1952 The new Principal informed the federal government of the poor condition of the physical infrastructure at the IRS such as the water, sewage, heating, and electrical systems. In detailing the challenges that he faced, it was mentioned that during the preceding school year some 30 children had run away, but that during his tenure with the exception of 3 girls who had run away during the first week, no truancy had occurred in the interim [ORC-000382, pg. 4].
- March 1957 An R.C.M.P. report that questioned whether the Indian Act granted the R.C.M.P. authority to act in the capacity of a truant officer. The R.C.M.P. and the federal government determined that it was the local truant officers responsibility to handle these matters and that the children's parents also take on more responsibility for attendance and when necessary reprimand their children [ORC-001500].
- 1962 A March 1962 memorandum recommended actions in accordance with the Delinquency Act be taken with respect to two IRS students that were truant [ORC-001504]. In November, two boys and two girls had run away from the IRS [ORC-004847, pg. 100].
- 1964 On May 16, a boy had run away from the IRS the previous night using an old bicycle [ORC-004847, pg. 140]. On October 3, three girls had run away after supper and the next day father Principal travelled to Fishing Lake in the hope of meeting up with the girls who had run away. On October 7, the three students were returned to the IRS [ORC-004847, pg. 149-151]. On November 4, one of two missing girls was brought back to the IRS. On November 6, two other students ran away [ORC-004847, pg. 152]. On December 26, two girls ran away after supper but then returned to the IRS that same evening [ORC-004847, pg. 157].
- 1967 From June 3 to 6, five boys and two girls ran away after supper and were later placed in prison in Battleford after having stolen two trucks. One of the boys was deemed to have been not guilty in the theft of the trucks and was brought back to the IRS while the two others boys had to go to court [ORC-004848, pg. 136-137]. From June 7 to 8, five girls had run away at supper time and were discovered the next day [ORC-004848, pg. 137-138]. On June 9, three boys ran away and were later caught [ORC-004848, pg. 138]. From October 18 to 19, three girls ran away from the IRS and were returned the next day [ORC-004848, pg. 146]. Three girls had run away from the IRS in November and were later caught in Turtleford [ORC-004848, pg. 148].
- 1968 At a Parent-Teacher Meeting held in March, the President of the School Committee reported on the problem of absenteeism and advised that parents teach their children the value of education [ORC-001522 pg. 2]. A November 1968 Onion Lake Band Council Resolution requested the services of an attendance officer on the Onion Lake Reserve. A reserve attendance officer was still at the IRS in 1971 [ORC-001523; ORC-

000948-0000].

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- May 1902 All the children at the IRS had influenza, one pupil died and another had little hope of recovery [ORC-000259].
- February 20, 1911 A parent requested that the doctor visit the IRS as one of his children died and another was ill. The following day the doctor quarantined the Roman Catholic Mission for diphtheria. One student had typhoid fever [ORC-000293].
- March, April 1914 The students were vaccinated against Smallpox. Nearly all the children were sick with measles [ORC-000797, pg. 14, 17].
- July 6, 1935 The principal complained about poor water quality and believes it caused the children to become ill [ORC-008411].
- 1937 At the IRS, 109 children were ill with a mild case of influenza and later in the year a measles epidemic also swept the IRS [ORC-000798, pg. 8, 10; ORC-004846-0000, pg. 15-16]
- 1944 The IRS experienced a measles epidemic, flu epidemic, inoculations against whooping cough and diphtheria [ORC-000798, pg. 71, 73, 85].
- 1947 At the IRS, 78 students were ill with an unspecified epidemic. Later in the year, one student died in hospital from illness [ORC-000799, pg. 4, 6].
- 1957 Many students were sick with the flu. Some students vomited blood while others are in a coma. There was also measles at the IRS [ORC-000799, pg. 44, 49; ORC-004846-0000, pg. 117-118].
- 1959 A dentist visited the IRS, and there was intestinal flu present at the IRS [ORC-000799, pgs. 59-60].
- 1961 A federal government inspection report indicates that the IRS Principal followed a practice of removing female students from classrooms to assist with laundry operations, and that this practice was contrary to federal policy [ORC-000361].
- April 1961 Some students had the mumps [ORC-000799, pg. 79].
- 1965 The IRS received 50 pairs of glasses and distributed them amongst students. A dentist, doctor, nurses, eye doctor and x-ray technicians examine children [ORC-000799, pg.146, 152-153; ORC-004847, pg. 83].
- May 1967 Due to an increase in enrolment and the conditions at the IRS, the Onion Lake Parent-Teacher Association petitioned the federal government for a new junior high school on the reserve or the improvement of conditions at the residential school [ORC-001514-0000; ORC-001514-0001; ORC-001514-0002]
- October 1971 The Sewers were blocked and all boarders were sent home [ORC-004849, pg. 25].
- September 1971 An outbreak of food poisoning affected at least five, possibly as many as twenty-five students [ORC-000905-0000].

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Rev. Dauphin	Unknown	1894
Sister St. Ignace	Superior	1894
Rev. J.A. Therien, O.M.I.	Principal	1895 to 1896; 1918 to November 1927; 1928; September 1929 to April 1930
Rev. W. Comire, O.M.I.	Principal	August 1896 to July 1900
Rev. Cypr. Boulene, O.M.I.	Principal	1900 to 1903
Rev. E.J. Cunningham, O.M.I.	Principal	1903 to 1917
Rev. A.H. Bigonnesse, O.M.I.	Principal	August 1917 to 1918
Rev. Fr. Lacombe, O.M.I.	Principal	September 1927
Rev. L. Balter, O.M.I.	Principal	November 1927; 1928 to September 1929; November 1930
Sister St. Ferdinand, Superior	Principal	1928
Rev. Jos. Portier, O.M.I.	Principal	April 1930 to February 1934
Rev. J.E. Pratt, O.M.I.	Principal	February 1934 to May 1937
Rev. Emile Pascal, O.M.I.	Principal	May 1937 to 1946; January to June 1947:
Rev. Jules St. Pierre, O.M.I.	Acting Principal	August 1947 to March 1948
	Principal	April 1948 to June 1951
Rev. J. Lessard, O.M.I.	Principal	July 1951 to October 1955
Rev. Louis-Philippe Roy, O.M.I.	Acting Principal	November to December 1955
Rev. Simon Rolland Gagnon, O.M.I.	Principal	January 1956 to March 1962
Rev. Martin C. Michaud, O.M.I.	Principal	March 1962 to March 1969
	Administrator	April 1969 to July 1974
Omer J. Ranger	Principal	1969 to 1970
Donald J. Feist	Principal	August 1970 to June 1973

As of April 1969, the administration of the residence and the classroom block was separated. The Administrator was responsible for the student residence and the Principal was responsible for the classroom block [ORC-000996; ORC-000997; ORC-001088, pg. 2; ORC-000673, pg. 2, 5]

Narrative Completed: October 11, 2011
Narrative Updated: September 6, 2012

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

