

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. Eugene IRS School Narrative**

**This School Narrative summarizes documents that provide an overview of the history and administration of the school.**

### **NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS**

- St. Eugene Mission [Item # 11432, 11393 and 01404] c. 1905 - 1970
- St. Eugene Mission Industrial School [Item # 07999] c. 1905 - 1924
- Kootenay Industrial School [Item # 00645, 07922 and 01404] c. 1890 - 1969
- Kootenay Indian Residential School [Item # 13148 and 01404] c. 1923 - 1970
- Kootenay Indian School [Item # 01127 and 11514] c. 1922 - 1966
- Cranbrook Indian Residential School [Item # 13188] c. 1944 - 1961
- St. Eugene Indian Residential School c. 1930 - 1968
- St. Eugene Student Residence [Item # 11432, 11393 and 13215<sup>1</sup>] c. 1967 - 1970
- Dominion Government Kootenay Indian School [Item # 11670] c. 1964
- Kootenay Hostel/Residential School (Hostel) [Item # 01192 and 13214] c. 1966 - 1970

### **CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY**

- 1874 The St. Eugene Mission was established by Reverend Fouquet and Brother Burns. [Item # 11344]
- 1888 Father Coccola negotiated for an Indian Industrial school at the Mission. [Item # 11365] Parliament approved \$4500 towards an Industrial School. [Item # 05005]
- 1890 The Government tells the Vicar Apostolic of B.C. that the per capita grant offered is enough and that if the Roman Catholic Church cannot manage the institution with the figure, then, the Government will appoint school staff, all being of Roman Catholic faith, and will manage the institution itself. [Item # 00649]  
The school was opened by the Sisters of Providence, who accepted the direction of the school. At times, while the school was under the direction of the Sisters of Providence, an Oblate Father was principal, but nominally. [Item # 11432, 11365 and 11354]
- 1922 Authorization to allow extra months holiday for pupils because of failure of water supply which necessitates partial use of infected stream. [Item # 07910]
- 1923 There was an indication of a “lack of harmony between the principal and her staff”. [Item # 07930]
- 1924 Spirit of unrest among the older boys at the school. With the concurrence of the Sisters of Providence, the Archbishop appoints a male principal. [Item # 08000, 07976 and 07954]

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<sup>1</sup> As of April 1, 1967 the Kootenay Indian Residential School was to be known as the St. Eugene Student Residence.

- 1928 In October, the Mother General of the Sisters of Providence visited the school and notice was given that the Sisters of Providence were recalled to the Mother House. [Item # 11393]  
Water system problem: Water pumped from the St. Mary's river is condemned on account of a mine upstream. This necessitates water for domestic purposes being carried from a spring 400 yards away. However, St. Joseph's Creek, is also condemned and can only be used for cleaning and fire protection. [Item # 09308]
- 1929 The Sisters of Providence withdrew due to financial difficulty/school expenses. [Item #11393]  
Indian Agent reports that when the Principal took over the school in late 1929, conditions were such that it was doubtful if it could be kept running. The school was also seriously in debt. As well, practically all pupils were tubercular. The Doctor, Nurses and the new Principal stated that children were under nourished and in poor physical condition. [Item # 08350]
- 1930 The O.M.I. Provincial reports to the Deputy Minister for Indian Affairs of impure water, bad sewage system and lack of milk for tubercular children at school. [Item # 08457]
- 1931 Recruiting began and children of school age were brought to the school by voluntary consent of parents. Neither police nor the agent is permitted to recruit for the school. School labour was abolished and a system of training (vocational and elementary instruction) established. [Item # 11393]
- 1933 Forest fire threatened school. [Item # 04671]
- 1933- Indian Agent submits that before new Principal, there were numerous cases of  
1935 truancy and crimes committed by these truants. Moreover, there were complaints of poor food, too much work, tuberculosis and other sickness among the pupils. Nearly every child had to be forced to attend school. In the past three years, there has been no truancy and parents have brought kids to school of their own free will. [Item # 08115 and 08350]
- 1935 Oblate Order decided to take charge of the payment of school debt. [Item # 03007]
- 1936 The Sisters of Charity of Halifax arrived in August to take over the house management and the supervision of the Indian School girls. [Item # 11393]
- 1938 July/August - the St. Eugene Mission is reduced to the status of a residence. [Item # 11393]  
An outbreak of measles meant children of St. Mary's reserve were out of school for 3 weeks. [Item # 08363]
- 1939 Due to an epidemic of measles on their reserve, the school was closed to St. Mary's pupils. Despite this precaution, an epidemic broke out in October when St. Mary's pupils returned to the school. [Item # 02736]
- 1942 Oblates active over the last decade in helping school finances. [Item # 08370 and 05521]

- 1943 For health reasons, the pupils have a half school-day in classes, while the other half is devoted to practical education. Practical education includes farming, manual training, carpentry, animal husbandry, cooking, sewing, dairy work and beadwork. The school and adjacent farm fun by the Oblates raise their own vegetables, beef and supply their own milk, cream and butter. [Item # 08377]  
Money owing to Oblates for loan and salaries. [Item # 03012]
- 1944 Four young girls tried to set the school on fire. [Item # 05738]
- 1946 Request made for a milking machine, to do away with pupil manual labour. [Item # 02061]
- 1947 The school was without water and light as the Otto and Lister engines broke down. 27 pupils were ill, two of them admitted to hospital with pneumonia. [Item # 09445]
- 1948 The school receives water from two sources: a spring (hard water for both drinking and culinary purposes) and St. Joseph's Creek (solely for watering cattle at the barn). The new St. Joseph's Creek pipeline (under construction) will supply soft water for laundry, dairy and barn. A chlorinator to be used as St. Joseph's Creek is polluted. [Item # 06240]
- 1950 First edition of "The Chupka", Residential School paper printed. [Item # 03754]  
An 8 year old girl was killed by an icicle, which had fallen from the roof. [Item # 11432]
- 1954 The school possesses a fife and drum band. Sports played are softball, hockey and soccer. Hockey games are played with teams from neighboring towns. [Item # 00432]  
Boys and girls enroled in Cadet Corps. [Item # 04724]
- 1956 40 cadet boys and girls were taken to Cranbrook by Army truck to sell poppies. On their return, due to the intoxication of the Sergeant driving, the truck crashed. The Sergeant was killed and one of the children was seriously injured. Almost all of the children sustained minor injuries and were taken to the hospital for treatment. [Item # 11432]
- 1958 A 5<sup>th</sup> classroom and an additional teacher established. [Item # 00527]
- 1965 Last day of classes is June 24th. In September, all resident children attending integrated classes; specifically, 85 to St. Mary's, 15 to Laurie (Grade 8) and 15 to Mount Baker. The official opening of St. Mary's School in Cranbrook is December 12 and the enrolment is 208 (Grades 1-7). The staff of St. Eugene residence is working at St. Mary's School. Oblate buses sold to St. Mary's School board and Oblates to receive substantial donation if school board disposes of them. As well, Oblates to have use of buses outside of school hours. [Item # 11432]
- 1966 An accident occurred as the Sisters were driving to St. Mary's School. Two sisters hospitalized. The other three sisters escaped serious injury. [Item # 11432]
- 1967 School name change: Kootenay Indian Residential to St. Eugene Student Residence. [Item # 13215]

- 1969 St. Mary's Band agreed to the closing of the Residence by Band Council Resolution, provided that buildings and lands are turned over and form part of reserve. [Item # 01588]
- 1970 St. Eugene's is the oldest and smallest residence in B.C. [Item # 01588]  
St. Eugene Student Residence to close effective June 30, 1970. Residence closed due to low enrolment, the fact that most students can attend school from their own houses and the availability of accommodation in other residences. [Item # 11432, 02454 and 13122]  
Agreement by 5 Band Chiefs (5 Bands of the Kootenay area) to the closing of the school under conditions, including transfer of lands and buildings to the five Bands to be held in common equally. [Item # 02450B]
- 1971 Disagreement on the transfer of lands and buildings to be designated as St. Mary's Indian Reserve No. 1A for the benefit of five Bands. [Item # 01363]  
Departmental approval given to the conferring of reserve status upon some 320 acres of Federal Crown lands formerly known as St. Eugene Residential School. 5 Bands approved lease of 30 acres to the B.C. Department of Welfare. [Item # 01380]
- 1972 Completion of the transfer of lands taking longer than expected. Lease with Provincial Government to proceed while land is still Federal Crown property. [Item # 01370F]
- 1973 Provincial Government took over physical occupation of residence March 1<sup>st</sup>. [Item # 03141]
- 1974 Lands set apart and added to St. Mary's Indian Reserve Number 1A (Lot 1, Block 494, Block 1758 Group 1 Kootenay District), for the benefit of the Saint Mary's, Tobacco Plains, Columbia Lake, Shuswap and Lower Kootenay Bands (June 13, 1974). [Item # 03076A and 03667]
- 1975 The Provincial Government decides not to proceed with proposed lease. [Item # 02470A]

## **MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL**

### Dates managed by Church

Between 1890 and 1970, the School was operated and managed by various Catholic Church entities and by the Federal Government. [Item # 13148, 11393, 04849A, 00084 and 07999]

1890-1929 Sisters of Charity of the House of Providence of Montreal [Item # 11393 and 11344]

1929-1970 Oblates of Mary Immaculate [Item # 11393 and 11432]

1936-1970 Sisters of Charity of Halifax arrived in August to take over the house management and the supervision of the Indian School girls. [Item # 11393 and 11344]

### Dates managed by Government

1969-1970 From April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1969, until its closure, St. Eugene Student Residence comes directly under the Federal Department of Indian Affairs. Staff members are now

civil servants. Status of the four Sisters who teach in St. Mary's School, Cranbrook, is uncertain; though, Principal received permission to have them remain at the residence. [Item # 11432]

## **SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

- 1890 Indian Industrial School founded by Father Coccola. [Item # 11344]  
Description of Property: There is a central building for the staff (chapel, kitchen and dining room) and two other buildings one for the boys and the other for the girls. [Item # 13241]
- 1904 Installation of a water supply system, including dam. Labour provided by pupils. [Item # 11433, 11440 and 11447]
- 1911 Construction of new main school building commenced. School in middle of site. School building three floors above the basement. [Item # 06221]
- 1912 New residence (Industrial School) built by the Government. [Item # 11432]
- 1923 Repairs to the water system and other equipment. [Item # 07927]
- 1924 Warehouse and blacksmith shop burnt down. [Item # 07951]
- 1926 Repair of the roof of the boiler house. [Item # 07330]  
Painting of barn and out buildings. [Item # 07380]
- 1927 Boiler repairs. Repairs to lighting plant. [Item # 07434, 07441 and 07446]
- 1928 New flooring in kitchen, four doors installed on the fire escapes at rear of building, decoration in the dining room, pantry etc. Fire axes and tools purchased. [Item # 07501]  
New roof on boiler house. [Item # 09321]
- 1929 Alterations to fire escapes. [Item # 09343]
- 1930 Replacing doors on fire escapes. [Item # 08449]  
Repairs to electrical lighting system. [Item # 08453]  
Redecorating interior and exterior of the school and outbuildings. [Item # 08473]
- 1931 Domestic water supply system - from spring constructed. [Item # 08582 and 08623]
- 1932 Petter Atomic Diesel engine installed for domestic water supply system. [Item # 04411]  
Painting of exterior of school. [Item # 04467]  
Construction of poultry house. [Item # 04490]
- 1936 Poor lighting system. New battery and repairs to lighting plant. [Item #05520 and 05529]

- 1938 Installation of refrigeration plant and steam pressure system. [Item # 03471]
- 1939 Hot water heater for domestic and laundry services. [Item # 03540]  
Principal changed the attics into dormitories. [Item # 03544]
- 1941 Blacksmith and carpenter shops destroyed by fire. As well, \$436 worth of lumber, necessary to repair the floor in the main building, were also destroyed. [Item # 13148]  
Lister Diesel Engine installed. [Item # 05747]  
Improvements to electric wiring and fire alarm. [Item # 05797]
- 1942 Construction of building to replace work shop destroyed by fire. [Item # 05580]
- 1943 Description of property: dormitories, preventorium, class rooms, dining room and kitchen exist at school. Main roof repair occurred. [Item # 03937]  
Repairs to barn and other buildings. Roofing repairs [Item # 02099 and 05719]
- 1944 Painting of exterior including metal roof of main building, chapel and interior. [Item # 03574]
- 1945 Roof repaired and painted. Authority given to improve urinals and to replace taps. Chimneys at school were cleaned and altered. [Item # 04086]  
Authorization to construct blacksmith shop. [Item # 05125]  
Basement flooding. Dam constructed on creek removed as the source. [Item # 05180]
- 1946 Lighting and pumping equipment replaced. Authority received for alterations to make two balconies tenant-able for preventorium purposes. [Item # 04071]  
Repairs to plumbing system. [Item # 05335]  
Problems with lighting and pumping equipment. A series of breakdowns meant repairs to all three power units. There is a need for the connection of the school to a power line. [Item # 04076]
- 1947 New hydro pressure tank (hydro pneumatic) to replace worn out domestic water supply tank. Installation of drinking fountains in the dairy barn. [Item # 08403 and 06183]  
Diesel power unit purchased. [Item # 09470]  
Authorization to reconstruct the telephone line to school. [Item # 09539]  
Repair of school boilers and installing new boiler tubes. [Item # 09562]  
Expenditure approved for new dairy building. [Item # 02022]
- 1948 Construction of new milk-house/dairy produce building. [Item # 11432]  
St. Joseph's Creek pipeline to school under construction. [Item # 11432 and 03779]  
Hypochlorinator purchased for St. Joseph's Creek Pipeline. [Item # 09265]  
Authorization to improve the facilities of the Domestic Science classes. [Item # 03779]  
Caulking and painting of the outside of the school building. [Item # 03779]  
Installation of fire protection. [Item # 09609]  
Two coats of paint on all trim, woodwork, iron work, roof of the belfry, to waterproof the front entrance masonry and to caulk all cracks in the concrete blocks. [Item # 01988B]  
Description of school property: The school is 8 miles east of Cranbrook. The site is approximately 3 miles from east to west and 1 mile from the St. Mary's river. There is a

- barn, carpenter and blacksmith shop for manual training and a dairy produce building. The third floor of the school building is finished on the south end only. [Item # 06221]
- 1949 Boys attic turned into a dormitory. [Item # 11432]  
Additional classroom provided. [Item # 03775]  
East Kootenay Power Company completed a power line to the school. [Item # 03762]
- 1950 Wiring of the electrical system of the school. [Item # 11432 and 07234]
- 1952 Installation of new boilers and stokers. [Item # 11432]
- 1953 A new floor in the kitchen is constructed and the house is insulated during the summer. [Item # 11432]
- 1954 Alterations made in the Sister's quarters in order to give each sister a private room. Boy's upper dormitory enlarged and one of the smaller dormitories converted into a class room. A good portion of the interior of the school is painted. [Item # 11432]
- 1956 Enlargement of girl's dormitory. [Item # 04811]
- 1957 Construction of new telephone line and the tie-in to the city system. [Item # 11432]  
Repair and maintenance of sewage disposal system. [Item # 04824]  
New roof on boiler room and garage installed and front steps repaired. [Item # 04831 and 04841]
- 1958 Government rents St. Mary's Council Hall as a temporary classroom. [Item # 09046 and 09051]  
New domestic water heating facilities and laundry dryer installed. [Item # 06522]  
Repairs to windows, install storm sash and recaulk doors and windows. [Item # 09248]  
Repair and replace the steps and concrete walks. [Item # 09031]  
Repairing and painting of roof. [Item # 09080]
- 1959 Installation of water softening and kitchen equipment. [Item # 09196 and 09198]  
Floor coverings installed. [Item # 09253]
- 1960 Acceptance of tender for the exterior painting of school. [Item # 06082]
- 1961 Repairs and renovations to fire escapes. [Item # 08130]
- 1962 Interior redecorating and resurfacing of floors. [Item # 08199]
- 1964 Installation of two new bathrooms off dormitories on the third floor. [Item # 11432]  
Work on indoor swimming pool in barn. [Item # 11432]  
Basement floor bathroom renovations. [Item # 13014]  
Installation of ventilating exhaust fans in school. [Item # 13040]  
Paving of school road and side entrances. [Item # 13026]
- 1965 Second floor renovations. [Item # 01160]  
New roof for boiler room. [Item # 02287B]



Description of property: **Top floor:** attic; 3<sup>rd</sup> floor: Boys' and girls' dormitories; 2<sup>nd</sup> floor: Dormitories in Boys' wing and Girls' wing; **Main Floor:** Two classrooms in each of two wings; central section is occupied as school offices, sick bay, small storerooms and principal's office. This floor communicates with the chapel wing and main entrance; **Chapel Wing:** Chapel, Boys' and Girls' social rooms; **Basement:** Boys' and girls' recreation rooms, dining room and storerooms; **Service Wing:** Kitchen, laundry, storage rooms; **Barn:** swimming pool and storage; **Workshops:** Maintenance workshop; and **Garage** [Item # 01082]. Residential school building has a square footage of 33,408 feet. One large barn used as storage space and housed a swimming pool of 10,000 square ft. There are no separate staff residences on the school property. [Item # 01127]

- 1967 Installation of new fire sprinkler system and water systems improvements. [Item # 01504]
- 1969 Emergency repairs to boiler room roof. [Item # 03256A]  
Insulation of residence. [Item # 03252A]
- 1971 Description of school property: 3 storey main building, with a chapel extension on the west side, a barn and 2 smaller farm buildings. Total inside floor areas of the main building and extension: 35,500 sq. feet. [Item # 01060ZD]

## LAND

- 1889 Portion of Lot 1 Kootenay District was given and deeded to the Government for the school. Deed made in May or June. Land conveyed is situated in the north-west corner of Lot 1 Group 1 Kootenay District containing 24.5 acres. [Item # 11260]
- 1898 Certificate of Title issued for 33 1/2 acres of land situated in Kootenay District as the site for the establishment of an industrial school for Indians. Land conveyed from the Order of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate to the Federal Crown. [Item # 010607D and 11275]
- 1910 The St. Eugene Mission is situated on the south bank of the St. Mary River, about six miles from its junction with the Kootenay River. Six miles south lies Cranbrook. [Item # 11365]
- 1930 The Government purchased from the Sisters of Charity of Providence, for school purposes, 3 parcels of land adjoining the school property containing a total of 280.78 acres and being part of District Lots 1, 494, 1758, and a subdivided portion of District Lot 1, Kootenay District. [Item # 01060S and 11117]  
Description of School Land: Held under Certificate of Title # 1516K dated December 19, 1898 is 33 and 1/3 acres in Lot 1, Group 1, Kootenay District. Held under Certificate of Title # 30746-I dated September 10, 1930 is a property consisting of 3 parcels: part of Lot 1 (21.78), Block 494 (116 acres) and Block 1758 (143 acres). [Item # 01365E and 01372A]
- 1932 The farm owned by the Oblate Order and leased to Chinese is turned over to St. Eugene's and lease cancelled, thereby giving the use of the land to the school. [Item # 11393 and 08350]

- 1935 The property belonging to the School consists of 303 acres, none which is irrigated. The property belonging to the Oblate Order consists of 840 acres, most of which is irrigated and on which the principal crops of foodstuffs and feed for stock are grown. [Item # 03007]
- 1943 Farming operations include 810 acres, of which 780 are rented from the Oblate Fathers. About 50 acres are cultivated. Cattle herd is the property of the Order, but no charge is made for the use of meat and dairy products. All farm costs borne by the school. [Item # 03012]  
School and property owned by the Government. This includes some 40 acres of irrigated land and 200 acres of other land and buildings such as a barn, carpenter shop and other smaller buildings. School built for 90 children. The Oblates own the farm - approximately 781 acres of land and 2 houses. Some 145 acres of land under irrigation. Oblates also own some 70 cattle, 10 horses and other livestock. Some 20 acres of land are leased. [Item # 11354]
- 1946 A large piece of land, formerly a garden, is made available for a playground. [Item # 04071]
- 1948 Farm is approximately 741 acres, of which 33 acres belong to school and the rest to the Oblate Order. Approximately 200 acres are under cultivation. Most of the stock is the property of the Order and consists of: 87 Beef Cattle, 13 Dairy Cattle, 3 Horses, 5 pigs and 300 chickens. No charge made to school for food and produce supplied from farm. [Item # 00931]
- 1950 Property is administered by school authorities: School title held by Government, 53.78 acres; School Farm title held by Indian Affairs Branch, 200 acres; O.M.I. Farm, 781 acres. 40 acres of school farm and 200 acres of Mission Farm under cultivation. [Item # 03020]
- 1956 Dairy herd started by Government. Herd said to belong to the school - reduced from 50 in 1935 to 32 in 1936. The herd was 67 heads in 1941. In 1943, the herd was, "evidently the property of the Order". How ownership could change is not clear. Land worked by informal arrangement. School rents large tract from Order, the rent being amount required for taxes. [Item # 05012B]
- 1969 School is Crown land under the administration of the Education Directorate. Area includes Lot 494 and parts of Lot 1-G1. This amounts to approximately 309.5 acres. [Item # 01404 and 01363]
- 1971 The St. Eugene Mission properties comprise District Lots 1758, 494 and a subdivided portion of District Lot 1 (Parcel A: The school residence, chapel, barn, two workshop buildings, playing field and landscaping are located thereon). [Item # 01060ZD]

## **PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA**

Item #	Date	Description
01056B	00/00/0000	Plan showing the Kootenay Industrial School
01962	00/00/0000	Map of main building, present chapel and proposed addition
02401	00/00/0000	Sketch of Kootenay IRS and surrounding area
09341	00/00/0000	Maintenance plans to be completed on the outside of school
09342	00/00/0000	End elevation
11118	00/00/0000	Plan of Kootenay Industrial School
13113	00/00/0000	Proposed asphalt paving
13161	00/00/0000	Location of proposed new clothes cupboards
13219	00/00/0000	Third floor bathroom installation
04263B	00/00/0000	Sketch of second floor
08238E	00/00/0000	Hydro-pneumatic tank installation
00429E	00/00/0000	Diagram of Students dining room, corridor and kitchen
00454A	00/00/0000	Plan of the Kootenay IRS (Basement)
00454B	00/00/0000	Plan of the Kootenay IRS (Main floor)
00454C	00/00/0000	Plan of the Kootenay IRS (Second Floor)
00454D	00/00/0000	Plan of the Kootenay IRS (Third Floor)
11119	00/00/0000	Plan showing proposed water supply system
08685B	00/00/0000	Plan 142-45 for Third Floor Washroom Renovations
13200C	08/15/1923	Blue Print of T. - B.C. 313
07507	02/03/1928	Proposed fire alarm system
02078	06/17/1946	Plan of what appears to be the proposed barn
06221	09/11/1948	Photographs of school
06236	01/31/1949	Water supply systems of school
04610	01/00/1950	Location of proposed fire escapes as well as floor plans

11702	12/10/1960	Proposed conversion of barn into gym and activity room
01411A	01/15/1969	Photo of ice forming on boiler room roof
01060ZD	06/19/1971	Includes photographs, plans and maps of school

**GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME**

Year	Number of Students
1890	20 - 25 children in residence
1891	25 children in residence
1892	50 children in residence
1894	50 children in residence
1896	55 children in residence
1911	60 children in residence
1913	80 children in residence
1924	56 children in residence
1926	75 children in residence
1929	80 children in residence
1930	57 - 61 children in residence
1931	67 children in residence
1932	70 - 80 children in residence
1933	73 - 80 children in residence
1934	80 - 82 children in residence
1935	87 - 92 children in residence
1936	87 children in residence
1937	89 children in residence
1938	81 children in residence
1939	90 - 100 children in residence
1940	90 children in residence
1941	82 - 91 children in residence
1942	80 - 85 children in residence

1943	86 - 90 children in residence
1944	84 - 93 children in residence
1945	89 - 100 children in residence
1946	86 - 100 children in residence
1947	95 - 108 children in residence
1948	98 - 109 children in residence
1949	102 - 110 children in residence
1950	96 - 100 children in residence
1951	93 - 98 children in residence
1952	98 - 119 children in residence
1953	113 - 127 children in residence
1954	113 - 138 children in residence
1955	133 - 145 children in residence
1956	145 children in residence
1957	92 - 146 children in residence
1958	92 - 145 children in residence
1959	140 - 143 children in residence
1960	124 - 141 children in residence
1961	122 - 136 children in residence
1962	112 - 123 children in residence
1963	103 - 117 children in residence
1964	103 - 118 children in residence
1965	114 - 130 children in residence
1966	103 - 111 children in residence

1967	91 - 120 children in residence
1968	54 - 98 children in residence
1969	52 - 57 children in residence
1970	51 - 56 children in residence

### **STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES**

Students from, at least the following bands attended St. Eugene's IRS:

St. Mary's; Lower Kootenay; Tobacco Plains; Lower Similkameen; Similkameen; Okanagan; Inkamooop/Inkammoep/Inkameep; Termission; Creston; Vernon; Enderby; Comox; Little Shuswap; Upper Nicola; Spallumchene/Spallumcheon/Sallumchene; North Thompson; Lake Similk.; Neskainlith; Tsartlip; Osoyoos; Penticton; Columbia Lake; Shuswap; Tsartlip; Westbank; Athelmer; Cranbrook; Kamloops; Cardston and Seabird Island.

There may be alternate ways of spelling these band names.

### **RELIGIOUS GROUPS**

Sisters of Charity of the House of Providence of Montreal [Item # 00652, 11432 and 11393]

Sister of Charity of Halifax - 1936 to 1970 [Item # 11432 and 11393]

Oblates of Mary Immaculate [Item # 11354]

Oblates of Mary Immaculate (Provincial - W. Byrne Grant, O.M.I.; J. Welch, O.M.I., J.R. Birch, O.M.I.) [Item # 08457, 08478, 08064 and 09594]

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (J.O. Plourde, O.M.I., Indian Welfare & Training Commission) [Item # 09389]

Oblate Indian and Eskimo Committee [Item # 02454]

Archbishop of Vancouver [Item # 07974]

Bishop of New Westminster [Item # 00645]

### **WRITTEN AGREEMENTS**

0000 Rules and Regulations - Kootenay Industrial School. [Item # 00664]

1890 Arrangement between the Government and the Roman Catholic Church for operation of the school covering per capital allowance, maintenance, furnishing and trades to be taught. [Item # 00656]

Arrangement between the Government, the Diocese of New Westminster, and the Sisters of Charity of the House of Montreal. Sisters will take entire charge and management of

- the school, with the Reverend Sister Superior acting as Principal. [Item # 00652 and 00651]
- 1962 Agreement between Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada and Indianescom, hereinafter called the "Management", for the operation of Kootenay Residential School. [Item # 00680]
- 1965 Agreement between Her Majesty the Queen and St. Mary's Catholic Public School Board. Pupil transport from St. Eugene Mission to St. Mary's Catholic school. [Item # 02409]
- 1966 Agreement between Her Majesty the Queen and Cranbrook Golden Bus Line. Pupil transport from St. Eugene Mission to St. Mary's Catholic school. [Item # 02404]
- 1973 Agreement between Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada and Her Majesty the Queen in right of the Province of B.C. regarding transfer of administration and control of a leasehold interest of those parts of District Lot 1, known as Parcel "A", being of St. Eugene residence. [Item # 03158]

### **DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS**

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

#### **Incidents (Physical)**

- 1924 In August of 1924, several boys of the school were flogged by the Indian Chief in the presence of the other pupils as punishment for planning to commit crimes. [Item # 07991]
- 1963 In September, a student left the dormitory after "lights out" and spent time down on St. Mary's Reserve. The student was warned that such conduct would not be tolerated. In October, the student left the dormitory about midnight, visited the reserve where he stole some wine and returned to the school about 4 a.m. quite drunk. The student was strapped and told if there was another violation, the superintendent would be asked to find another place for him to reside. [Item # 00437]

#### **Incidents (Student on Student)**

- 1938 The Principal made a complaint to the RCMP that four boys left the dormitory between 12 p.m. and 4 a.m. through the windows and re-entered the school through lower windows. The boys entered the girls' dormitory where they performed immoral acts with three girls. The result was that three of the boys were punished at the school and the ring leader was expelled and committed to the Industrial School at Port Coquitlam for a period of 2 years. [Item # 11638, 11639, 11635, 11636, 11637, 11634 and 11633]

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **Farm Operation**

A farm in operation at St. Eugene's appears to have been a source of food [Item # 04096, 06691, 08122 and 11432]. Pupils worked on the farm and helped in seeding and planting crops [Item # 06727 and 11514]. There were cattle at the school, which provided students with milk [Item # 03762 and 08377].

1959 No farm or garden operations as these activities were discontinued. [Item # 03028]

### **Health Issues**

There were numerous outbreaks/epidemics of influenza, mumps, measles, chicken pox and flu in 1929, 1938 (opening of school delayed by doctor), 1945, 1946, 1947 (Classrooms closed for a few days by order of doctor), 1949, 1951, 1952, 1955, 1968 [Item # 11393, 04080, 04063, 11432, 00469, 03999, 04058 and 04056].

There were numerous incidents of T.B. and the dealing thereof in 1938, 1939, 1947, 1949 [Item # 08637, 03532, 04050, 03767]. In 1948 a girl died - found to have miliary T.B. [Item # 11432].

There were numerous reports regarding dental care or concern for the lack thereof, appendicitis, examinations for tonsillitis and adenoids and no vaccinations at school at various times, i.e. 1905, 1936, 1943, 1945, 1946, 1948, 1951. [Item # 11460, 00038, 05659, 04086, 03784, 11432, 04068 and 01880]

1942 There was an accident involving a pupil who may have a badly broken leg or ankle. [Item # 05620A]

1944 A report that a girl died and a doctor would have liked to perform an autopsy - possible M.D. negligence. A report that a boy swallowed 5 two inch nails while in bed. [Item # 03582]

### **Truancy**

Incidences of truancy in 1918, 1922, 1926, 1936, 1943, 1954 and 1963 [Item # 10908, 07922, 08075, 02701, 03937, 00487, 00436]. More specifically, in 1924, six pupils left school, stole horses and went to Fort Steele where they broke into general store. Two boys received five years suspended sentence, one boy received five years in reformatory, one boy received four years in reformatory and one boy received two years in Oakalla Farm [Item # 08001 and 07960]. In 1938, four girls ran away and complained of the Sister General and too much work. In 1940, four girls ran away. Their reason was given as "...the Sisters were too 'mean' to them and they wanted to go to Calgary." [Item # 11393].

### **Vocational Training**

1910 Manual arts and crafts exist at school; specifically, carpentry, shoemaking and farming for boys and plain and fancy sewing, dress making, embroidery and cooking for the girls. [Item # 11365]

1926-1927 Vocational training class held every Saturday morning. [Item # 07431]

1939 Construction work by boys occurs around the school. [Item # 06880]

Attention drawn to poor and/or no manual training/inability to procure a manual training instructor in 1947, 1948, 1953 and 1954 [Item # 04211A, 04070, 03796, 03779, 03775, 00501, 00490 and 00487].

1949 School award for best exhibit of school work at the East Kootenay Fall Fair and Industrial Exhibition. [Item # 03762]

1960 Between 1960 to 1967, a vocational/vocation workshop is held at the school during late June/Early July. The average attendance over the years is 15 to 45 boys. [Item # 11432]

### **Complaints/Investigations/Incidents**

1918 Complaints made by ex-pupil regarding the treatment of pupils and quality of facilities. Complaints are discounted as groundless. [Item # 06746, 06749 and 06750]

1923 Discontent amongst Indians regarding school affairs; specifically caused by the refusal of the Agent to let pupils attend a ceremony for a new road coupled with new staff at the school. Indian Chief warned Sisters to leave on next train to avoid trouble. [Item # 07933]

Indians complain that boys are too heavily worked, insufficiently dressed and have insufficient food. Boys died at school this Spring from pneumonia. [Item # 07948]

1924 Report indicating discipline of boys is bad and that the school requires a male principal. Report states that constant change in staff contributed to unrest. Also, there is insufficient milk at school. [Item # 07951]

Principal complains to Indian Agent that he does not have the power that is invested in other principals. Also, Indians complain that there is too much work and not enough study in the school and that the children are not being taught as they should be. [Item # 07999 and 08003]

1925 Allegations made by boys that, "Father Tedrow whipped them too much...[and]... he carried a revolver about in his pocket when whipping them" It is further noted that "the boys admitted they lied about the revolver and whippings." Further complaints: Smaller boys heavily worked; insufficient winter clothing; insufficient food; much sickness in school; and abuse of their position by hired help. [Item # 08063, 08064 and 08065]

1928 Report regarding useless fire escapes and lack of water for fire protection. [Item # 07479]

1929 Indians complain that there is too much French spoken by the teachers and that the children do not get an opportunity to learn the English language. Sisters to be changed. [Item # 08098]

1930 Inspection regarding complaints: smell from sewerage, tubercular condition of school, children being poorly fed, condition of buildings, etc. [Item # 08478]



- 1937 Attention drawn to poor condition kitchen, boys' lavatories, floors throughout the dormitories, kitchen and laundry, refrigeration and power supply. School in need of repair. [Item # 03393 and 03401]
- 1938 A private citizen submitted a report that included the allegation, among others, that pupils at school are "...terrorized..." [Item # 08634]. Enquiry states: "...none of the charges have been substantiated..." [Item # 08630]. Gerald Barry, who inspected the school in 1935, 1936 and 1938 stated, "While there have no doubt been some cases of corporal punishment, I have not heard that at any time the children were in any way ill-treated, nor do I believe that a single case of ill-treatment has taken place..." [Item # 08631] Agent's Report notes: "They [a number of Indians] also wanted to know if it was right for the Sisters to pull the girls around by the hair and for the Oblate Brother to rough handle the boys." "The charges of either rough or unkindly treatment on the part of any of the Sisters or the Oblate Brother are, in my opinion, only imaginary...." Complaints made regarding special privileges being accorded to children of the Okanagan Agency and too much religion and vocational training being taught. [Item # 08364]
- 1938 Theft of a cache of carpenter tools and several pairs of trousers by pupils. [Item # 11632]
- 1945 Attention drawn to inadequate fire protection, poor condition of engine room, lighting and power, plumbing and water supply and unsatisfactory refrigeration and worn out batteries. [Item # 04086]  
Attention drawn by Principal to unsanitary living conditions: Faulty plumbing and disgusting odor, 46 boys limited to one toilet and three bath tubs, wash basins out of order, taps out of order, inadequate ventilation or insulation, unsatisfactory condition of boiler room, heating plant and water supply and poor laundry facilities. [Item # 01783A]
- 1946 Undercurrent of dislike by parents of method of education (only one half-day in school with balance in vocational training or general chores). Parents also object to kids being away from home for 10 months at a time. [Item # 04068]  
Utilities at school inadequate. Water supply requires constant attention and is poor. There is a need for an additional water system. Lighting plant overloaded and plumbing in need of attention but supplies not available. [Item # 04068 and 04080]
- 1957 Principal draws attention to poor heating in basement recreation rooms. [Item # 04848]
- 1964 Complaint from employee regarding no pay for overtime. [Item # 11670 and 11681]
- 1965 Complaints of mistreatment from the kids of the school and resulting problem of truancy. [Item # 00671]

### **PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS**

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Coccola, Rev. Father Nicholas, O.M.I.	Nominal Principal/Principal	1890 - 1898, 1904 -08/1905

Adrian, Sister <sup>2</sup>	Superior	1890
Pacifique, Reverend Sister	Superior	1890
Reta, Sister	Superior	Followed Sister Adrian but no dates provided
Mary of Nazereth, Reverend Sister	Superior	Followed Sister Reta but no dates provided
Conrad, Sister Mary	Superior	1893; 1897 - 1899 Followed Sister Mary of Nazereth
Casilda, Rev. Sister	Superior	C. 1897 Followed Sister Conrad but no dates provided
Dolorous, Sister	Superior	Followed Sister Casilda but no dates provided
Wagner, Reverend Father James, O.M.I.	Nominal Principal/Acting Principal	08/1905 - 05/1908
Beck, Father Felix, O.M.I.	Nominal Principal/Principal	1908 - 1914
Bernard, Sister	Principal/Superior	Preceded Sister Justinian but no dates provided
Justinian, Rev. Sister	Principal/Superior	1913 - 1922
Napoleon, Sister Mary	Principal/Superior	1922 - 1923
Augusta, Sister	Acting Principal	1923
Mary/Marie du Cenacle, Sister	Principal/Superior	1923 - 1925
Francis, Sister	Acting Principal	1924
Coccola, Rev. Father	Temporary Principal	October 1924 <sup>3</sup>
Smith, Reverend Father J.M.	Principal <sup>4</sup>	06/1924 - 10/1924
Tedrow, Rev. Floyd W.	Principal	11/1924 - 12/31/1925
Lepine, Rev. Maurice, O.M.I.	Principal	01/1926 - 12/1927
Choinel, Rev. Louis, O.M.I.	Principal	12/1927 - 11/1928

<sup>2</sup> Item # 11370 states first Sister Superior.

<sup>3</sup> Appears to have been at school for six months.

<sup>4</sup> Archbishop appoints male Principal due to unrest amongst older boys. [Item # 08000, 07976 and 07954]

Alphonsus, Rev. Sister	Superior	1927 - 1929
Cullinan, Rev. Walter J., O.M.I.	Principal	12/1928 - 1929
Patterson, Reverend Father John Michael, O.M.I.	Principal <sup>5</sup>	11/1929 - 08/1935
Murphy, Reverend Father Michael, O.M.I.	Principal	09/1935 - 07/18/1938
Collins, Reverend Patrick J., O.M.I.	Principal	07/18/1938 - 03/1941
Baxter, Father	Acting Principal	December 1940
Carlos, Brother	Acting Principal	C. Summer of 1944 <sup>6</sup>
Forbes, Reverend Father George, O.M.I.	Principal	03/1941 - 09/20/1945
Kelly, Reverend Father Gerald F., O.M.I.	Principal/Director	09/21/1945 -08/31/1952
Dunlop, Reverend Father Gerald P., O.M.I.	Principal	09/01/1952 - 08/1958
Clarke, Father	Acting Principal	02/1954 - 03/1954
Mulvihill, Reverend Father James P., O.M.I.	Principal	07/1958 - 1960
Ryan, Reverend Father John F., O.M.I.	Principal	1960 - 1961
Laplante, Reverend Father Vincent A., O.M.I.	Principal/Administrator	1961 - 08/1968
Kelly, Father Gerald F., O.M.I.	Principal/Administrator	09/01/1968 - 12/1970

Narrative Completed: October 5, 2005

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<sup>5</sup> First Principal as Sisters of Providence withdrew from school at the end of November 1929.

<sup>6</sup> Item # 03610 and 05784 states left in charge while Forbes out of town.

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

