

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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Blood IRS (a.k.a. St. Mary's IRS)
School Narrative
Created June 30, 2005
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This School Narrative summarizes documents that provide an over-view of the history and administration of the school.

NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS

- **Immaculate Conception Boarding School [09508]** **1898**
Roman Catholic Boarding School on the Blood Reserve [09844]

- **Blood Indian Residential School [03691B]** **1926**
Blood R. C. Indian Residential School [01747]
Blood Residential School [01653]
Blood IRS [01653]
St. Mary's R. C. Residential School [01556]
St. Mary's Indian Residential School [02231A]

Following the separation of the student residence and day school in 1969, the school and residence are known respectively as:

- **St. Mary's School [07322]** **1969**
St. Mary's Blood Indian School [07288]
Blood Day School [04594]
St. Mary's Day School [01901]

AND

- **St. Mary's Student Residence [00036]**
Blood Student Residence [02432]
St. Mary's Blood Student Residence [05516A]
Blood Student Hostel [02514]

However, following the separation, for a time the entire institution is still known as

- **St. Mary's Indian Residential School [02231A]**
Blood IRS [01653]

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

- 1898, October 31** Opening of the Immaculate Conception Boarding School with an attendance of 28 pupils [09501; 01463]

- 1926, July 21** Opening of the Blood Indian Residential School [01556]

- 1926** Transfer of staff and students to Blood IRS [01554]

1932	Opening of a fourth classroom at Blood IRS due to overcrowding [09616]
1941	Commencement of a Manual Training curriculum at Blood IRS [00748]
1950	Formation of the Blood Cadet Corps, under the Dept. of National Defence, composed of students from Blood IRS and St. Paul's IRS [04959]
1957, September	Opening of day school facilities at Blood IRS [08567]
1958	Government authorizes Grade 10 at Blood IRS [03463]
1959, September	Grade 11 is taught at Blood IRS [01379]
1969	Administration of the classroom block and student residence is separated [02758]
1969	Instruction is reduced to kindergarten through grade 10 [03811]
1970	Higher grades are re-instituted [03799]
1973	Establishment of a Learning Centre [07388]
1973, September	Grades 1, 2, and 3 are transferred to Standoff Elementary School [07388].
1976, September	Agriculture courses are introduced into the curriculum [04614]
1978	A course in Blackfoot language is established [03047]
1983	Blood IRS offers grades 5 through 12 only [01975]
1984	Blood IRS offers grades 6 through 12 only [01971]
1988, June	Scheduled closure of Blood Student Residence [08208] We cannot confirm actual date of closure.

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Dates managed by Church

Immaculate Conception Boarding School

1898	The R. R. Sisters of Charity (a.k.a. Grey Nuns of Montreal) operate Immaculate Conception Boarding School from its inception in 1898 until April 1, 1926 [01558]. However, Principals at this school are Oblates [09552].
1911	We have not located the 1911 Agreement for the operation of Immaculate Conception Boarding School, but it appears to have been signed by the Bishop of St. Albert [01499].

Blood IRS

- 1926** The Order of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate operate Blood IRS from April 1, 1926 [01558; 01607]. Principals and Assistant Principals are Oblates until 1969 and the Residence Administrator is an Oblate until at least 1979 [00291; 02747; 07967; 10048].
- 1973** Contracts with the Oblate Fathers for the operation of the Student Residence are in place until 1973 [02760].
- 1976** Sisters of Charity (a.k.a. Grey Nuns) work at Blood IRS as domestic staff until the mid-1970s [02243C]. The Sisters of Charity also supply teachers for Blood IRS, and the appointment of these teachers is determined by the Church and approved by the Government after 1954 [09266; 09332]. Sisters appear to have taught at the school until at least 1982 [07458A].

Dates managed by Government

Blood IRS

- 1962** The 1962 Agreement for the Operation of Blood Indian Residential School is between Her Majesty the Queen in the Right of Canada and Indianescom¹ [01205].
- 1969, April** The Government assumes operation of the Student Residence and the school [08591; 10048]. However, the Residence Administrator and child care workers do not come under the provisions of the Public Service Employment Act until April 1, 1974 [01754].

ADMINISTRATION OF PERSONNEL

Oblates of Mary Immaculate

- founding – 1949** The school administration hires and pays teachers and domestic staff until at least 1949 [01550; 00279].
- 1962** Under the 1962 Agreement for the Operation of Blood Indian Residential School, Indianescom agrees to employ a competent domestic staff and nominate a Principal responsible to the Management [01205].
- 1955 – 1974** The school administration hires and pays domestic staff at the school until 1969, with the exception of child care workers and the Residence Administrator, who only come under the provisions of the Public Service Employment Act in 1974 [06500; 02727A; 01754].

Until at least 1969, the Principal is permitted to staff the residence at his discretion, provided the key positions (e.g., Matron, Engineer and Cook) are filled at salary rates that do not exceed those prescribed by the Government, and provided total salaries do not exceed the amount provided by the

¹ Indianescom, or The Indian Eskimo Commission, is the Church organization responsible for coordinating Church-operated residential schools.

Government [06500].

However, from time to time, the Government requires the employment of particular domestic staff positions and provides the associated increase in the salary allotment, although these positions are filled by the school administration [05475; 02914].

In 1965, the Government also provides for an increase in the minimum wage and for an increase in vacation pay for residence staff [01153].

Government

- 1924** The Government pays for summer courses taken by Grey Nuns who are classroom teachers at Immaculate Conception Boarding School [01548].
- 1950** The Government contributes an allowance towards the salary for a Manual Training Instructor to be hired by the school [05481].
- 1952** The Government hires a Manual Training Teacher for schools on the Blood and Peigan Reserves [08220].
- 1954** The Government approves the appointment of teachers from 1954 [09332].
- 1956** The Government employs a Senior Teacher at the school [10047]. The Senior Teacher is a public servant but reports to the Principal [05327].
- 1962** Under the School Operation Agreement of 1962, the Government agrees to assign teaching staff to the school, subject to consultation with the management [01205].
- 1974** By 1974, the Regional Manpower Planning Committee is responsible for approving all staffing in the Student Residence [03175].

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- 1898** The Immaculate Conception Boarding School is constructed [10602]. The school is a three-storey balloon frame building, located on the Blood Reserve on a low-lying flat bordering the Belly River [09521].
- 1915** School accommodation is increased to contain 10 additional pupils [01515].
- 1924** 135 acres of land is broken for Blood IRS by aboriginal labour [01050].
- 1926** Blood IRS is built [10511]. This brick, three-storey building plus basement has a lighting system and is located on the Blood Reserve at a site approximately seven and a half miles north of the town of Cardston, Alberta [01662] [00426] [10494].
- 1929** A teacher's residence is constructed [06491A].
- 1930** Blood IRS is connected to the Calgary Power Company's lines [09776].

- 1942** A new church is constructed on the Blood IRS grounds [01735].
- 1948-1949** A gymnasium is constructed by the Principal and school staff. The building is to include a gym floor and stage, manual training rooms, dormitories and a museum of relics and handicrafts [00703]. Electrical wiring is installed [00734].
- A worker is killed by electrocution while working on this project [00711].
- 1948-1949** A classroom block, which includes the Principal's office, is installed. This former Armed Forces building is moved onto a full basement and is equipped with plumbing, heating and furnishings [00714; 07978]. We are unable to confirm whether this classroom block contained 4, 6, or 8 classrooms [00714; 05545; 06087]. The classroom block is H-shaped and is connected to the main building by a covered passageway (tunnel) in 1949 [02208]. Two classrooms in the main building are to be converted into dormitories upon completion of the classroom block [00714]. This building eventually becomes the Primary School [01806].
- 1953** An old Government building is moved onto school grounds to be used as a classroom, and a teacherage is constructed [05670; 04182].
- 1954** Authority is received to build a Manual Training Shop [04122]. We cannot confirm the project was ever completed.
- 1955** By 1955, the Principal has completed the following projects: constructed a boys' dormitory, enlarged the dining room, and constructed a building containing play rooms [00246]. The playroom building appears to become the girls' gymnasium in later years [00613].
- 1955** Authority is received to build a root house [04106]. We cannot confirm the project was ever completed.
- 1956** The Principal constructs a two-classroom addition in the church basement [03939B]. The classrooms are completed by August, 1956 [05873].
- 1957** A teacherage is constructed [03911].
- 1957** A water reservoir and pumping equipment are installed [05971].
- 1957** A third classroom is partitioned in the Church basement as a temporary measure to accommodate higher enrolment [06010D].
- 1957** The school museum is converted into an additional temporary classroom [04381].
- 1957** A duplex teacherage is constructed [08528B]. Government correspondence indicates Government officials were not aware of the construction until after completion [08530].
- 1958-1959** Because an unfinished extension to the gymnasium does not meet Government engineering standards, the Principal is ordered to stop construction work [07110B].

- 1959** A duplex teacherage is built for teachers' accommodation [00414; 06061].
- 1959** A two-bedroom mobile home is purchased [08505].
- 1960** The 12-classroom block is constructed and is occupied by February 18, 1960 [06304]. This two-storey building includes classrooms, a lab, a library, a home economics room, a boys' shop, staff rooms, store rooms and a Principal's office [00426]. In some documents this building is referred to as the "16-classroom block." The reason for this variation in description is unclear [01653].
- 1962** On November 19, 1962, strong winds blow the gymnasium roof off. It lands about 300 feet away in the playground [07077]. The gym floor and walls are also damaged. Blood Band members state their desire to have both the gymnasium repaired and a new gymnasium constructed [07172A]. Repairs to the gymnasium, including a new heating system, are completed by June, 1965 [06805; 06964A].
- 1963** The first of three major phases of renovations to the main building is completed (Phase I), which includes the construction of additional fire escape stairs, the improvement of sanitary facilities, and the provision of additional storage areas and change rooms. The project is completed by November 13, 1963 [03476E; 06829].
- 1965** A lean-to attached to the gymnasium is converted to a lunch room [00450].
- 1965-1966** The second of three major phases of renovations to the main building is underway (Phase II), which adds extra space for staff dining, makes changes to the heating system and modernizes the cooking facilities [06961]. The renovations cause the Student Residence to be closed from the beginning of the school year until January 1966. Resident students are instructed to stay at home or with relatives along bus routes and to attend school at Blood IRS on a day basis [00652; 00635; 00058]. The project is completed by September 1966 [08979].
- 1969** The third of three major phases of renovations is underway (Phase III), which includes the renovation of interior space, including upgrading staff living quarters and play room areas. This phase also may have included upgrades to the heating system. [02653A; 05324]. We cannot confirm the completion date for this project.
- 1972** Four new units of accommodation are provided at Blood IRS: two 3-bedroom bungalows and two 2-bedroom mobile homes [03336].
- 1975** Science and administration areas of the 12-classroom block are renovated [03111; 07747]. Students are in temporary classrooms while construction is underway [01907].
- 1977** Construction of an Agriculture / Vocational Complex, to be located at Blood IRS, begins in the winter. The building is to accommodate 69 students and is to include a welding shop, automotives area, lecture area, equipment repair area, and an auto body shop. The Agriculture / Vocational Complex is intended primarily for adult education, with 25 per cent to be utilized for high school education. Construction is left incomplete for several years

[04614; 08715A].

- 1979** The 12-classroom block undergoes major renovations, including an addition to provide additional classrooms, offices, a staff and work room and other facilities [07869]. A Band Council Resolution also requests this project [07877]. Construction commences in February, 1978 and is completed in August, 1979 [10883A].
- 1980** The Government commits to the completion of the Agriculture Complex [03195]. We cannot confirm the completion date of this project.
- 1982** The H-Block, which was condemned as a classroom building from the 1960s [05538] and considered a fire and safety hazard, but was in use through to the 1970s, is demolished [02147].
- 1985** The gymnasium for St. Mary's Day School is completed. The new gymnasium is connected to the school and construction is arranged through an agreement with the Blood Band [04617; 04757B; 07709].

Dates owned by Church

Ownership of the **Immaculate Conception Boarding School**, founded in 1898, is claimed by the Roman Catholic Church by 1913 [01505]. Later documentation states the school is Government-owned [10300], while other documentation states the school is Church-owned [09565].

Dates owned by Government

Blood IRS, founded in 1926, is owned by the Government [00706].

Buildings owned by the Church at Blood IRS

In 1963, the Church owns 14 out of the 37 buildings at the Blood IRS site [00614].

A number of staff dwellings at Blood IRS are constructed by the Oblates [01806]. The Oblates own dwellings on the school site until at least 1973, but by this time these dwellings may not house school staff [08582; 08582A].

Associated day schools

Standoff Day School opens in 1954 [03191], and students appear to move between there and Blood IRS [05174].

Levern Day School is also Roman Catholic, was located 30 miles away from Blood IRS, and students move between the two schools [08092; 02799; 07206].

LAND

Treaty 7

Immaculate Conception Boarding School

Location

The school was located on the Blood Reserve, at a site bordering the Belly River, approximately twenty-two miles south of Macleod, Alberta [09521]. The school had five acres of reserve land and three acres of leased land [00983].

Farming Activities

The school was not surrounded by good farming land [09522]. However, the school cultivated a few acres of land and had a small number of livestock [09554]. The school also had “an interest in the Mission garden” [09516].

Blood IRS

Location

The school was located on the Blood Reserve at a site approximately seven and a half miles north of the town of Cardston, Alberta [01662].

It is not clear if the school land was surrendered by the Band Council for educational purposes [01776; 00976; 08061]. To date, we have not located a Band Council Resolution surrendering land for Blood IRS educational purposes.

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

Item #	Date	Description
06010D	Undated	Sketch of the church basement and the partition proposed to create additional classroom space.
08578	Undated	Sketches of living quarters and proposed renovations
09799	Undated	Sketch of a well at Blood IRS
05856C	Undated	Sketch of basement and proposed conversion
05134A	Undated	Interior and exterior photos of school
04673B	Undated	Exterior photos of kindergarten
03948A	Undated	Exterior photo of school
08003	Undated	Rough sketch of main building
03032A	Undated	Sketch and floor plan of Immaculate Conception Boarding School
09893A	Undated	New pump house floor plan
07514B	Undated	Sketches of Industrial Arts Classroom
07758B	Undated	Plan and elevation of St. Mary's Vocational School
06036A	Undated	Elevation sketches of the proposed 12-classroom block
07039D	Undated	Blood IRS site plan
10234A	February 22, 1938	Sketches of fire exits

Item #	Date	Description
05670	1953	Sketches of proposed conversions to agency office into classroom
05904A	April 23, 1956	Exterior photos of Blood IRS
06571	1957	Sketch of a dwelling
06579	1957	Sketch of a dwelling
06584	1957	Sketch of a duplex dwelling
06581	1957	Sketch of a dwelling
06576	1957	Sketch of a dwelling
08575	May 1958	Detailed plans of the 12-classroom block and plan of Blood IRS site
07018	December 1961	Site plan of the Blood IRS complex
00681	June 07, 1962	Sketches of the school buildings, including the main building, boys' dormitory, gymnasiums, classroom block, additional classrooms, teacherages, and other buildings
07161	March 22, 1963	Exterior photos of additions and revisions to Blood IRS
08579	April 1963	Gymnasium plans
00613	September 17, 1963	Exterior photos of Blood IRS buildings numbers 19, 10, and 14
00614	November 1963	A map of the residential school grounds, including all associated buildings owned by both the Church and the Government
05162	December 30, 1964	Plan of Phase II proposed changes
05147	June 25, 1965	Sketch of alterations to staff washroom
06987	September 07, 1965	Exterior photos of construction work at Blood IRS
08576	September 1968	Sketches of Phase III alterations
08574	January 1973	Sketches of renovations and repairs to St. Mary's Day School and Student Hostel.
04992	June 25, 1976	Proposed layout of St. Mary's School Addition
08577	July 1977	Detailed plans of the St. Mary's School addition and an exterior photograph
08573	May 1978	Survey plan of the St. Mary's School addition
08314A	August 31, 1984	Sketch of girls first floor washroom

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

These figures are considered approximate.

Immaculate Conception Boarding School

1898	25 grant earning pupils
1908	50 grant earning pupils
1910	39 pupils enrolled
1915	55 pupils enrolled
1923	72 grant earning pupils

Blood IRS

1927	117 residential pupils
1929	120 residential pupils
1931	122 pupils
1932	136 residential pupils
1934	154 pupils
1936	158 pupils
1938	154 pupils
1942	141 pupils
1945	163 pupils
1948	190 pupils
1950	250 pupils
1952	261 residential pupils
1953	256 residential pupils 3 day pupils (evidence of day pupils from 1953)
1954	259 residential pupils
1955	290 residential pupils 1 day pupil
1956	298 residential pupils 1 day pupil
1957	305 residential pupils 46 day pupils
1958	320 residential pupils 97 day pupils
1959	298 residential pupils 136 day pupils
1960	311 residential pupils 179 day pupils
1961	241 residential pupils 249 day pupils
1962	227 residential pupils 280 day pupils
1964	250 residential pupils 320 day pupils
1966	150 residential pupils 373 day pupils (from this point onwards, day pupil figures appear to also include resident pupils)

1968	132 residential pupils 414 day pupils
1969	423 day pupils
1970	160 residential pupils 374 day pupils
1971	353 day pupils
1974	100 residential pupils 280 day pupils
1978	459 pupils
1980	69 residential pupils 537 day pupils
1982	447 pupils
1984	459 pupils

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

Although Blood IRS primarily serves local children, students from, at least, the following bands attend Blood IRS:

- **Peigan** (from the mid-1950's)
- **Blackfoot** (admission considered but unconfirmed)

There may be alternate ways of spelling these band names.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Oblates of Mary Immaculate [01607]

R. R. Sisters of Charity (a.k.a. Grey Nuns of Montreal) [09521; 09266]

Diocese of St. Albert/Archdiocese of Edmonton [01500]

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

1962 Agreement for the Operation of the Blood Indian Residential School between Indianescom and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration [01205]

1970 Chaplaincy Agreement between the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Immaculate Conception Parish of the Roman Catholic Church [01273; 02874A]

1972 Chaplaincy Agreement between the Immaculate Conception Parish, Blood Indian Reserve and the Department of Indian Affairs [08086A]

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

- 1995 Father Maurice Goutier, a former priest from Blood IRS, is granted a suspended sentence and two years probation after entering a guilty plea a charge of indecent assault at the school between 1955 to 1957. The police investigation begins after a complaint from a former female student of Blood IRS. A second indecent assault charge is dismissed by the Government [The Lethbridge Herald, August 18, 1995 (from The Globe and Mail on CD-ROM, Version 3.82 for Windows); The Lethbridge Herald, December 18, 1997 (from The Globe and Mail on CD-ROM, Version 3.82 for Windows)].

The following suggestions of abuse, listed chronologically, comprise all known identifiable complaints and/or allegations, received by government officials, located to date.

Incidents (Sexual)

- 1957 A female student of Blood IRS is not allowed back to school because she is infected with gonorrhea [08398].
- 1971 A Report dated June 28, 1971 alludes to a rumor of possible sexual abuse involving a male staff member. In an interview with a second staff member, which discusses a school trip, the following is reported [11455A]:

[The second staff member] stated that children going on the tour were mainly boys and in elementary grades. (This investigation showed this to be incorrect.) [The second staff member] said parents doubted the wisdom of the selection and because of [the male staff member's] presence on the tour the mothers were concerned for the welfare of the young boys.

...

[The second staff member] alluded to a [male staff member] - male student] affair... Based as it is on rumour, this would certainly seem to besmirch the reputation of both a student and [a staff member].

...

[The second staff member] defended this girl against some allegations of moral turpitude but at the same time, insinuated that [the male staff member] might be guilty of some immoral tendencies.

Incidents (Physical)

- 1928 In January 1928, a staff member admits to hitting a male student in the face and making his nose bleed. The Indian Agent investigates the matter. [item # 01566, 01567]
- 1934 A male staff member is reported to have struck a male student, causing a black eye. The male student is examined by a medical doctor who reports on his injuries. Band Officials complain to a Government Official and request the removal of the male staff member. The father of the male student states he will not send any more of his children to the school and that he wishes to prosecute the male staff member [01627; 01628]. The Government takes

the matter up with the Church authorities “with a view to preventing any recurrence of such treatment of pupils.” [01630; 01631; 01629].

- 1941 A parent complains that his son has been beaten at Blood IRS. A Government official finds that a male staff member has punished the male student with a strap “and that [the male student] had not been mistreated in any way” [01734].
- 1948 A male staff member is accused of striking a male student’s father. A description of the incident is recorded in the Minutes of the Blood Indian Council Meeting, as well as the following statement: “The Council wished to go on record as stating that this was not the first time that [the male staff member] had hit an Indian and that they wished this incident written into the Council Minutes” [00302]. A Government Official responds to the complaint and writes, “we would request that we be advised of any further incidents of a similar nature which might occur” [00298].
- 1969 A letter from a staff member complains female students have been punished in the following manner: “What I do object to is the fact that the girls’ wrists were strapped until they were swollen and bruised and which I consider excessive punishment” [10748].
- 1969 A Blood IRS female staff member lodges a complaint, primarily against a male staff member. The complaint is related to expulsion of students, alterations in attendance records, which caused welfare cheques to be withheld, and the use of excessive discipline including strapping which caused injury. The female staff member also alleges male staff members entered the girls’ bathroom and that female students were subject to other humiliating practices [10748; IRC-048297a]. The male staff member responds to the allegations [10768; 10769]. The Government responds to some of the complaints [10756]. A Government memo indicates the Indian Association of Alberta has requested a report of investigation and corrective action taken [10005]. Documents indicate the Indian Association of Alberta informed the Government they had not yet received a reply to their inquiry [10007; 10006].
- 1975 An allegation of physical assault by a male staff member is recorded in the Blood Tribe Administration Special Council Meeting Minutes. The meeting is held to discuss the Band’s desire to have the Government replace the male staff member, and another staff member. Students at the meeting are recorded as saying they “... think that the staff member presses them too much where he verbally and physically assaults the students” [08213].
- 1981 A letter discusses the decision of the Education Committee of the Blood Tribe Chief and Council to dismiss a Blood IRS staff member in light of his conduct and his physical attack on students [02492; IRC-048117].
- 1982 A male student’s parents write to the Government alleging a staff member held a heated thumb tack against their son’s arm causing a burn and sore. The letter claims the school administration was informed but no action was taken [07572]. A letter from a Government Official to the parents states he will find out more details on this matter [07570]. To date, we have not located further documentation regarding this incident.

Incidents (Student on Student)

- 1968 An “Interview Record Form” signed by a staff member, and concerning a male student, reads under “REASON FOR INTERVIEW”: “Notified to keep hands off other boys’ genitals, otherwise, it being a case of morality, immediate expulsion would result from repetition” [10762B; 10762C].

- 1968 An "Interview Record Form" signed by a staff member, and concerning a male student, reads under "REASON FOR INTERVIEW": "Yesterday was behind the school at recess doing something quite disrespectful to a girl with the help of 3 other boys" [10762D].
- 1968 "Interview Record Form" signed by a staff member, and concerning a male student, reads under "REASON FOR INTERVIEW": "Gross misconduct with an unwilling girl in conjunction with three other boys yesterday during afternoon recess and behind the school ... They ran after her, caught up to her, wrestled with her, threw her down and rolled her on the ground, probably not respecting her private parts" [10767F].
- 1968 A Blood IRS staff member requests the discharge of a student after a group of students dramatize a revolt, and suggest stripping some of the other students who are reluctant to participate. It is also alleged that the students in question used physical force on the other students [02889].

Incidents (Other)

- 1940 A Government report notes the R.C.M.P. will deal with "difficulties" of Blood IRS staff members [IRC-047228].

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Evidence of Corporal Punishment

- 1928 A report from a Government official indicates truant students are whipped. The Government official complains that the father of a male student who had truanted "made the statement that he had been to see [a staff member], and asked him not to whip the boy when he brought him back, but [staff member] stated he would unless [the Government official] told him not to" [01614].
- 1935 A letter discusses the truancy of three male students from the Blood IRS. The document reads: "These boys have left the school a number of times within the past three or four weeks, and in the case of [one of the male students], he has been strapped in my presence for his second offence ..." The letter also indicates the male students were locked in rooms for several days as punishment [11066].
- 1962 Corporal punishment is administered and reported to the Government [01123].
- 1966 A letter from a staff member to parents of students states: "We have had to strap some other pupils this year for misbehaving on buses as yours do although they have been told by me and by their teachers... that the rule is that they sit down and keep quiet" [07447].

Standards of Instruction

- 1922 A Government Inspection Report provides very negative descriptions of the instruction at Immaculate Conception Boarding School [09556]. In response, the Government asks the Principal to arrange for better-qualified teachers [01536]. Negative reports are also submitted in 1923 and 1924 [09562A; 09566].
- 1957 A Senior Teacher's Report notes the lack of qualifications of some Blood IRS teaching staff [01932].

- 1964 A letter complains of poor educational and teaching standards at Blood IRS [04885].
- 1966 A Blood IRS Study Report notes "... the program of former years failed to meet the academic potential of the pupils concerned" [03670].
- 1968 A Government memo indicates high school instruction at Blood IRS is not equal to provincial high school standards [10065].
- 1971 A remedial class is introduced "for children with various learning and behavior problems" [07285].
- 1971 A Government letter indicates Blood IRS is the only federally-operated school for aboriginals in Canada that offers a high school program [02926].
- 1973 Instruction at Blood IRS is accredited by the Alberta Department of Education [07389].
- 1973 A learning centre is established for pupils having problems in language arts, reading and math [07388].

Adult Education

- 1956 Night courses in mechanics, woodwork, agriculture, animal husbandry, home economics and public speaking begin in the 1956-57 school year [02097].
- 1958 Adult education classes in English, Home Economics and Motor Mechanics begin in January, 1958, with 60 adults in attendance [08567].
- 1960 Adult education courses in electricity, domestic science and farm mechanics are offered with 35 adults in attendance [08560].
- 1961 Adult education is conducted on Sunday nights "when the parents have been returning their children to School after being home for the weekend" [08557].
- 1977 A letter to the Government complains the 34 students in the adult upgrading class at Blood IRS do not receive financial assistance [03013].
- 1981 Adult Education is established in Mathematics and English for the 1980-81 fiscal year, with a \$5000 contribution arrangement to the Blood Band [07472; 07472B].

Health

- 1935 Blood IRS is quarantined because of a measles epidemic. About 85 children are infected and a male student dies from complications [00753; 09637].
- 1945 The Blood Band Council complains the cemetery on the west side of Blood IRS is causing an unpleasant odor in the girls' playground and asks that deeper graves be dug [02852].
- 1956 Blood IRS is quarantined due to an outbreak of spinal meningitis on the Blood Reserve. The school remains open during the quarantine [01719].
- 1960 An investigation is conducted into sanitation and public health problems at Blood IRS [06395A]. Measures are taken to improve these problems, including a reduction in residential enrollment, effective September 1961 [02105A].

- 1961 A Government Report notes building deficiencies at Blood IRS and makes recommendations for improvements [07036A].
- 1969 A letter notes the kindergarten is located in close proximity to the pig barn at the rear of the school which will cause health problems [01695].
- 1972 An inspection report notes the unsanitary condition of the boys' washroom [05518].
- 1973 An inspection report notes problems with methods of Blood IRS caretaking staff that result in fire hazards [04594].
- 1984 An inspection report notes problems with facilities at Blood IRS and makes recommendations in regards to health, safety, and first aid [02165].

Complaints regarding teaching staff or from teaching staff

- 1965 A Government memo communicates a complaint from a former Blood IRS student about the presence of Nuns at residential schools. The memo reports "...when I told her... she could continue her education at Crowfoot [IRS], she said she did not wish to go there, and gave as her reason that she did not want to be in any residence where there were Nuns" [11345].
- 1971 A report details a Government investigation into a grievance filed by a male staff member against a number of other staff members at Blood IRS. The grievance appears to complain of several staff members' behavior surrounding the planning of a student trip to Europe, in which students were to be accompanied by several staff members. The report contains serious allegations about two male staff members, and allegations of other staff members' improper conduct towards the staff member who filed the grievance [11455A]. A letter indicates the potential transfer of some staff members named in the report [11456].
- 1974 A staff member resigns from Blood IRS, stating: "I do not think that the climate within Indian Affairs, or the attitude of the Band Council towards the school is conducive towards the continued success of the school as an educational institution, or towards the continuation of my particular philosophy within the school." Several other staff members resign at the same time [03520; 03520A; 03520C].
- 1975 Responding to complaints concerning two Blood IRS staff members, the Blood Tribe Education Committee recommends the replacement of these staff members [08210; 08211; 08213]. It is also recommended to the Government that one of the staff members be terminated and that the other staff member be retained under a different position [08214]. One of the staff members in question requests and receives a transfer [07367; 02541].

Crowding at the school and lack of adequate facilities for school-aged population

- 1951 Blood Band Council Minutes indicate that even with both Blood IRS and St. Paul's IRS filled, 150 to 200 Blood Reserve children are left without education [01720].
- 1957 Government and School documents indicate both the classroom and dormitory facilities at the school are overcrowded [01932; 05995A].
- 1959 A Government memo notes the crowded conditions at the school [08255].
- 1960 A Government report notes the overcrowding and public health problems at the school

[04994].

- 1967 A Government memo notes renovations suggested to relieve the overcrowding at the school [08963].
- 1970 A report indicates overcrowding, fire hazards, and inadequate washroom facilities in the primary classroom block [08387].

Practices regarding sending pupils home for holidays and weekends

- 1928 Children at both schools on the Blood Reserve “receive the privilege of going home on the first Saturday of each month” [10972].
- 1929 Older girl pupils remain in school over the summer holidays [10979].
- 1937 Students are sent home for summer holidays, “with the exception of a few older girl pupils” [08648].
- 1938 It appears children are not permitted home for weekends [01639].
- 1945 A Government Official writes “Am I to understand that weekend holidays and other holidays, which have been expressly forbidden in past years, are still being allowed?” [09674]. Later in 1945, pupils appear to be kept in school for these holidays [00305].
- 1960 By 1960, most children are regularly sent home on weekends [03685]. However, in 1962 a dietitian’s report states that “Approximately 50 to 60 children stay in residence over the weekends” [00254].

Water supply and heating problems affecting the operation of Blood IRS

- 1940 - 1941 The well is dry and water is hauled from the agency by the school’s truck [10729]. Pupils are sent home until the well is repaired [10728]. A new well is drilled and most children are back in school by March 2, 1941 [09902].
- 1959 The school is without hot water because of boiler problems [00393].
- 1960 The school is without hot water for three days because of boiler problems [07013B].
- 1960 The high-pressure laundry boiler is out of order and condemned by the Boiler Inspector [01284].
- 1961 There is not enough hot water for the children to take baths and do dishes and other chores because of the insufficient storage capacity of the hot water heater [00664].

Bussing of day pupils to Blood IRS and Cardston High School

Senior students from Standoff Day School are transported to Blood IRS to receive instruction in home economics and shop [08396]. It appears Senior Peigan pupils are also bussed to Blood IRS for instruction in home economics and shop classes [05474].

It appears Blood aboriginals provide bus services on contract with the Government from 1959 [08563; 08554].

A small number of students live in residence at Blood IRS while attending Cardston High School by bus [01668; 08247].

Fires

- 1956 An explosion in the school light meter sets fire to the surrounding wall. The Principal urges the re-wiring of the school [03915A].
- 1957 A fire in the boiler room is extinguished by a bucket brigade. The fire is believed to have been caused by an explosion of gas fumes [03909].
- 1976 Fires in the day school and residence buildings are suspected to have been deliberately set [02243].

Farming Activities and Leases for Farming and Grazing Land

- 1926 The Government purchases farming equipment for use at the school [10438] and appears to construct outbuildings [10507; 08658].
- 1930 A Government official states “too much land is being cultivated at [Blood IRS and St. Pauls IRS] and that the boys are being made slaves of, working too long hours and not receiving the close supervision they should have.” He writes that Blood IRS has a total of 280 acres in crop with an equal amount summer fallowed [09586]. The Government requests a report on the extent of farming activities at the school [09587]. We have not located this report to date.
- 1932 A Government official notes the healthy appearance of the children and attributes their improved nutrition to the operation of the school farm [09794].
- 1932 – 1942 During this time period, inspection reports indicate the school has from 160 to over 200 head of cattle, about 15 to 30 horses, from 35 to 150 pigs, and about 20 milking cows, as well as chickens, geese and turkeys. In addition, the school cultivates about 130 acres of wheat, over 60 acres of oats, rye and barley, and has from 160 to 200 acres of land in fallow [09794; 09821; 09658].
- 1943 The school requests a five-year lease for about 4,800 acres of Blood Reserve land for cattle grazing. The Government only agrees to a one-year lease, which the school refuses [02877A].
- 1945 A report on farming and grazing operations at Blood IRS notes that the school has 600 acres of broken land, that it sells and trades wheat, and that it keeps poultry, hogs, cattle, and a dairy herd. Profits from farming operations go to the operation of the school [01000].
- 1950 A lease of 1,400 acres is approved, with 320 acres added in 1951. The lease is renewed and eventually expires in 1959 [02877A]. The Blood Band grants these leases on the condition land revenue will be spent on the children of the school [00991].
- 1954 The school has 75 cows, 3 bulls and a milk herd of 30 grazing on open land on the Blood Reserve [08203A].
- 1960 Renewal of the 1,400 acre lease for five years is approved by the Blood Band Council [02876].

1960 The farm is now operated by the Oblates and no longer belongs to the school. The school continues to purchase food from the farm until at least 1964 [00257; 02717].

Labour provided by pupils at Blood IRS

1929 – 1945 Documents dating from 1929 to 1945 indicate male pupils worked on the farm on a half-day basis, in season, under the supervision of a farming instructor. Other documents indicate only older male pupils performed labour on the farm, with two full days per week on the farm in addition to other daily chores [01000; 09581A; 09596]. It appears by 1955, pupils no longer receive instruction in farming or gardening [02125A].

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Tenure dates are considered approximate

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Riou, J.	Principal	1898 to 1901
Doucet, L	Principal	At least 1901
Levern, J. L.	Principal	At least 1903; and at least 1905 to at least 1906
Salaun, J. M.	Principal	At least 1908 to 1910
Doucet, L.	Principal	1910 to 1911
Ruauux, Eugene	Principal	1911 to 1937
Doucet, L.	Acting Principal	May 1921 to October 1921
Devic, C.	Acting Principal	May 1936 to at least August 1936
Charron, P. A.	Acting Principal	At least June 1936
Lavern, J. L.	Principal	1937 to 1938
Charron, P. A.	Principal	1938 to 1948
Forrestier	Acting Principal	At least October 1948
Lafrance, Maurice	Principal	1948 to 1962
Fortier, Gerard	Principal	1962 to 1964
Foster, G. (This appears to be Gerard Fortier)	Principal	1963
Levaque, J.E.Y.	Principal Residence Administrator	1964 to 1969
Drouin, E.O.	Principal	September 1966 to August 1969
Duhaime, Antonio	Residence Administrator	At least January 1969; and at least 1972; and at least 1975; and at least 1979
McHugh, H.D.	Principal	At least September 1969
Faulkner, S. R.	Principal	At least September 1970
Shaw, S.S.	Principal	September 1971 - 1974
Murzello, Peter	Principal	September 1974 - 1975

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Steinley, C.	Principal	September 1975 - 1982
Three Persons, P.	Acting Administrator	1979
Twigg, Jim	Administrator	At least 1980; and at least 1982; and at least 1986; and at least 1987
Wells, Jim	Principal	1982 to at least October 1983
Crawford, N.R.	Principal	1984 to at least May 1985

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



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