This narrative history of a Residential School was researched and produced by the Government of Canada as part of its response to litigation and the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation has not verified the content of this document. It is provided here for reference purposes only. Documented incidents of sexual and physical abuse are based on the documentary record and do not take into account survivor testimony.



You are welcome to contact the NCTR if you wish to add, comment on, or challenge any versions of the history presented herein.

St. Mary's (Mission) IRS School Narrative April 7, 2005

This School Narrative provides an over-view of the history and administration of the school. This document will be provided to all parties.

NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS

1863

1868

1882

05020]

•	St. Mary's Mission School for Boys [item # 00501A]	1863 - 1868	
•	St. Mary's Mission Indian Boarding School [item # 01403]	1868 - 1902	
•	St. Mary's Mission Boarding School [item # 00005]	1902 - 1923	
•	St. Mary's Mission Indian School [item # 10277]	1923 - 1926	
•	St. Mary's Residential School [item # 00041]	1926 - 1934	
•	St. Mary's Indian Residential School [item # 01529]	1934 - 1939	
•	St. Mary's Indian School [item # 00105]	1939 - 1942	
•	St. Mary's Indian Residential School [item # 04090] St. Mary's Residential School [item # 01720] St. Mary's Indian School [item # 01633] St. Mary's School [item # 09327] [Names used variously during time period]	1942 - 1961	
•	Mission Indian Residential School [item # 01835]	1961 - 1968	
•	St. Mary's Student Residence [item # 06930]	1968 - 1984	
CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY			
1861	St. Mary's Mission is founded by Father Leon Fouquet. Building of St. Mary's School commences. [item # 01143]		

School buildings are completed on the new site. [item # 01143]

St. Mary's Mission School for Boys opens. [item # 01143]

Upon the arrival of the Sisters of Saint Ann, girls are admitted to the school. [item #

The school is relocated to accommodate the building of the railway. [item # 05020]

- Request by the Principal of St. Mary's to have it designated as an "Industrial School", instead of a "Boarding School", so that the per capita grant may increase from \$60.00 to \$130.00. The Department of Indian Affairs refuses the request. [item # 01403, 01401]
- Laundry and bakery buildings are destroyed by fire. [item # 00001, 00002]
- The buildings of the school meet the requirements called for by the Agreement for the Maintenance and Management of Indian Schools. Consequently, the school is upgraded from Class "C" to Class "A" and receives an increase in the per capita grant to \$125.00 per student. [item # 01474, 01476]
- 1923 A new barn is completed. [item # 04970]
- Report by the Indian Agent outlining the dilapidated conditions of the buildings at the school. [item # 00051]
- The Department of Indian Affairs considers closing the school temporarily due to the fire hazard caused by the outmoded heating units at the school. [item # 00052]
- To minimize the risk of fire, a night watchman is hired to patrol the school during the night and money is provided to fix the furnace and laundry boilers. [item # 04313]
- The Roman Catholic Church authorities finance the construction of a new building which contains a kitchen storeroom, dairy, staff quarters, kitchen, dining room and dormitory. Repairs are also made to the boys' residence and a three-story wing is added to the girls' building. [item # 01532, 01541]
- 1936 A Preventorium is opened for children with tuberculosis. [item # 00094]
- 1946 For the first time, students in grades 1-6 attend classes for the entire day. [item # 80183]
- 1948 High school classes are held at the school. [item # 01633]
- 1952 First high school graduation held at the school. [item # 05036]
- 1955 Closure of Preventorium. [item # 03379]
- 1958 Construction begins on the new school. [item # 05114]
- 1958 Students in grades 11 and 12 attend classes at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School in North Vancouver. [item # 80151]
- 1960 For the first time in the school's history, the Department of Indian Affairs employs the teaching staff. [item # 01292] St. Mary's is now a government-owned school. [item # 01800]
- Opening of new government-owned school which is called "Mission Indian Residential School". The school continues to be operated by the Oblate order. [item # 00268, 00268A]

- The Oblate order operates a joint high school for grades 9 and 10 in the old Church-owned buildings which formerly constituted St. Mary's IRS. This school is known as St. Mary's High School and is in operation for the 1961-1962 academic year. [item # 01340, 01831, 05220]
- 1962 Principal buildings of the old school are demolished. [item 05101]
- 1965 Students in grade 11 are enrolled at the Mission Junior Secondary School as part of a pilot project. [item # 06312]
- Students in grades 8 to 12 are enrolled at the Mission Junior Secondary School. Five academic classrooms remain in operation. [item # 01260]
- 1967 Students in grades 7 to 12 attend school in Mission City. [item # 06616]
- 1968 Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 also attend school in Mission City. [item # 02287]
- 1968 Name of the school changes to "St. Mary's Student Residence". [item # 01296]
- All students attend school in Mission City. The school is now designated a "child care institution", with no formal educational facilities. [item # 01113]
- 1970 The St. Mary's Student Residence Advisory Board is formed. [item # 06537]
- 1971 Three classrooms at the Residence are leased to School District No. 75 (Mission). [item # 02470, 02918B]
- 1971 Children attending kindergarten in Mission City are accepted into the Residence. [item # 06603A]
- 1973 Classrooms and gymnasium space are leased to School District No. 75 (Mission). The School District agrees to resurface and repair lines of the gymnasium floor prior to the opening of the school in September 1974. [item # 09213A]
- 1973 The Oblate order no longer acts in the administration of the school. For the first time in the history of the school, a layperson is appointed as administrator. [item # 02281, 01997, 09247]
- 1975 The St. Mary's Student Residence Education Society is incorporated. [item # 02502, 02503]
- St. Mary's Student residence is closed. The buildings and land are leased for a five year term to the Coqualeetza Education Training Centre (CETC), a non-profit society set up by the Sto: lo Nation. [item # 02554, 07248A]
- 1993 The CETC continues to occupy the site, currently known as St. Mary's Centre, which operates as an educational facility, as well as a site for community events, meetings and conferences. [item # 02556]

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Dates managed by Church

From its inception in 1863 until 1969, the Roman Catholic Church managed St. Mary's Indian Residential School (including Mission Residential School). [item # 04813, 01867]

In 1962 there was an Agreement for the Operation of the Mission Indian Residential School, between Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada and Indianescom (a company controlled by the Oblate Order). [item # 01318]

Dates managed by Crown

From April 1, 1969 until its closure in 1984, the school was administered by the government. [item # 00281A]

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The buildings which comprised St. Mary's IRS (1863 - 1961) were owned by the Roman Catholic Church [item # 01368, 02946, 00080] The buildings which comprised Mission Indian Residential School and St. Mary's Student Residence were owned by the government. [item # 01327, 02347]

- 1863 Two wooden buildings are constructed, as well as a church, forming St. Mary's Mission School for Boys. [item # 05020]
- The school is relocated to accommodate the building of the railway. [item # 01143]
- 1885 School buildings are completed on the new site. [item # 01143]
- The school consists of two frame buildings housing boys' and girls' schools, shops, and staff and pupil residences. [item # 01155]
- New buildings constructed for boys and girls at a cost of \$18,000.00 [item # 01410]
- 1896 Laundry and bakery buildings are destroyed by fire. [item # 00001 and 00002]
- 1898 New laundry and bakery buildings are constructed. [item # 00004]
- New building is erected for the use of staff at the school. [item # 01450]
- 1915 Report indicating that the boys' dormitory has accommodation for 42 boys and the girls' dormitory has accommodation for 42 girls. [item # 01453]
- A new barn is completed. New flooring is installed in the boys' dining room, kitchen, dormitory, girls' kitchen, dining room and recreation room. Alterations are made to the dormitories and classrooms to provide additional accommodation [item # 04970, 04976, 04985]

Re-modelling of the laundry building and installation of additional laundry equipment. 1924 [item # 00031] 1924 Two buildings are converted into an isolation hospital for children with communicable diseases such as smallpox and diphtheria. [item # 00032, 00033] 1927 Installation of new electric lighting and power plant at the school. [item # 04300] 1928 Two new classrooms are constructed. [item # 01529] 1930 Fire breaks out and damages the church. [item # 80167] 1933 The Roman Catholic Church authorities finance the construction of a new building which contains a kitchen storeroom, dairy, staff quarters, kitchen, dining room and dormitory. Repairs are also made to the boys' residence and a three-story wing is added to the girls' building. [item # 01532, 01541, 00076] 1935 Extensive repairs are made to the heating system at the school. [item # 04367] A Preventorium is opened for children with tuberculosis. [item # 00094] 1936 New fire escapes are installed, along with additional equipment for the prevention of fires. 1937 [item # 04394] Extensive repairs to plumbing at the school, including upgrading the hot water system and installing showers in the boys' and girls' buildings. [item # 04450, 09794, 00105] The building in which the Preventorium is located is struck by lightning and is seriously 1940 damaged by fire. Restoration begins immediately. [item # 80177, 05047] New washroom facilities are added to the girls' building. [item # 04512] 1950 New washroom facilities are added to the staff and boys's building. [item # 09370] 1952 A gymnasium is constructed at the school. [item # 03307, 80189] 1955 Closure of Preventorium. [item # 03379] 1955 A building for the home economics department is erected. [item # 80111] 1958 Construction begins on the new school. [item # 05114] 1961 Opening of new government-owned school which is called "Mission Indian Residential School". [item # 00268, 00268A] 1962 Principal buildings of the old school are demolished. [item 05101] 1964 A Fire Protection Engineering Survey provides a list of the buildings at the school: Girls'

and Boys' Dormitories; Refectory and Chapel; Classroom Block containing four

- classrooms; Gymnasium; Convent; Priests' Residence; Teachers' Residences. [item # 03409]
- 1965 Conversion from coal to oil and natural gas heating. [item # 02059]
- 1968 Installation of emergency lighting in the dormitory areas. [item # 00399A]
- 1970 Improvements to outdoor lighting of the Residence and grounds. [item # 06548]
- 1975 Sprinkler system is installed in the students' dormitory building; emergency lighting is installed in the staff dormitory. [item # 06304]
- Appraisal of St. Mary's Student Residence indicates that the value of the buildings is \$1,981,650.00. [item # 00488]
- 1984 St. Mary's Student residence is closed. The buildings and land are leased to the Sto: lo Nation. [item # 02554]

LAND

The school was situated on the north bank of the Fraser River, about one mile east of Mission City, B.C. [item # 03013A] The Oblate order owned the land on which the school was situated. [item # 05020, 04407]

- Land grant issued in the name of Louis Joseph D'Herbomez, consisting of 160 acres. Forms the original unit of St. Mary's Mission. [item # 05007]
- The school is relocated to accommodate the building of the railway. [item # 01143]
- The Oblates ask the Department of Indian Affairs to build a new barn for the school. The Department agrees, but requires the Oblates to execute a mortgage for \$11,000.00 in favour of the Crown, as security for the construction costs. [item # 02356]
- School property consists of 480 acres, 160 of which are under cultivation. [item # 03013A]
- The school's water supply becomes contaminated. A new water reservoir, holding tank and supply system is constructed for the school. [item # 04407, 04432, 01719]
- School property consists of 465 acres, 120 of which are under cultivation. [item # 03379D]
- Property appraisal commissioned by the Department states that the value of the 25.3 acres the Department wishes to purchase is \$17,800.00. [item # 00556]
- The Department of Indian Affairs purchases 25.3 acres of land for the new school from the Oblates. The \$11,000.00 mortgage against the Oblates is discharged as partial payment for the land purchased. [item # 02537]

- 1978 Efforts to develop the land owned by the Oblate order, on which the old school was located are unsuccessful. The property remains designated as an agricultural land reserve. [item # 02961]
- 1984 St. Mary's Student residence is closed. The buildings and land are leased to the Sto: lo Nation. [item # 02554]
- The property on which St. Mary's Centre is located remains designated by the provincial government as an agricultural land reserve, and ownership continues to reside with the federal Crown. [item # 02556]

OTHER MEDIA

#00006	00/00/0000	Drawing of proposed addition to school.
#00012	00/00/0000	Plans of first and second stories of St. Mary's Mission Boarding School.
#00019	00/00/0000	Drawings of buildings at St. Mary's.
#00039	00/00/0000	Plans for fire escapes.
#00059	00/00/0000	Plan for outside dormitory at Mission Indian School.
#00201	00/00/0000	Plans of the school buildings and grounds.
#05006	00/00/0000	Hand-drawn site maps of the school and grounds.
#05070	00/00/0000	Hand-drawn map of school site.
#05084	00/00/0000	Photograph of the chapel interior.
#05100	00/00/0000	Photograph of the girls' dormitory.
#05109	00/00/0000	Aerial photograph of the school.
#05113	00/00/0000	Drawing of the proposed new school.
#80215	00/00/0000	Map, drawings and site plans of Mission IRS.
#80518	00/00/0000	Photograph of St. Mary's Mission Boarding School.
#02543	03/23/0000	Site map of old school.
#04942	01/13/1903	Drawings of buildings at St. Mary's Mission Boarding School.
#80522	09/20/1961	Photographs of newly-opened Mission IRS.
#03409A	09/16/1964	Photographs of Mission IRS.

#03409B 09/16/1964 Plans of the buildings at Mission IRS.

#02964 06/09/1965 Photographs of Mission IRS.

#00395 02/16/1967 Site map of the buildings at Mission IRS.

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
1863	42 boys (may have been 45 boys - sources differ)	1930	119 students
1864	47 boys	1931	124 students
1865	50 boys	1933	138 students
1866-1869	60 students (girls enrolled in 1868)	1934-1935	158 students
1870-1871	55 students	1937	171 students
1872	50 students	1938	192 students
1873-1874	55 students	1940-1941	201-202 students
1875	54 students	1945	210 students
1876	48 students	1948	244 students
1877	58 students	1949	258 students
1878	55 students	1950	254 students
1879	50 students	1951	248 students
1880	39 students	1952	273 students
1881	50 students	1953	268 students
1882	43 students	1955	291 students
1883	45 students	1956	268 students
1884-1887	26-27 students	1957-1959	263-264 students
1888-1890	24-25 students	1960	237 students
1891	34 students	1961	249 students
1892-1893	50-51 students	1962	252 students
1894	42 students	1963	260 students
1895	63 students	1964	234 students

Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
1896-1897	73-75 students	1965	262 students
1898	82 students	1966	264 students
1899	67 students	1967	272 students
1900	87 students	1968	264 students
1902	84 students	1969	242 students
1903	75 students	1970	236 students
1904-1906	84-85 students	1971	254 students
1907	75 students	1973	224 students
1908	78 students	1974	208 students
1909	85 students	1976	151 students
1910	75 students	1977	120 students
1914	60 students	1978	121 students
1916	75 students	1979	105 students
1917	84 students	1980	121 students
1923	107 students	1981	111 students
1924	118 students	1982	80 students
1925	122 students	1984	41 students

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

Students from at least the following Bands attended St. Mary's IRS:

Agassiz, Ahousaht, Anderson Lake, Beacher Bay, Bella Bella, Bridge River, Canoe Creek, Cayoose Creek, Cheam, Chehalis, Chemainus, Clayoquot, Coldwater, Coquitlam, Cowichan, Darcy, Deroche, Douglas, Ehattesaht, Fountain, Harrison, Hesquiaht, Homalco, Hope, Kanaka Bar, Katz, Katzie, Kilgard, Klahoose, Kyuquot, Laidlaw, Lake Babine, Langley, Lillooet, Lyachson, Lytton, Malahat, Matsqui, Mitinaht, Mt. Currie, Musqueam, Nanaimo, Nanoose, Nootka, North Bend, Nuchatlitz, O'Hamil, Pacheenaht, Pauquachin, Pavilion, Pemberton, Penalakut, Port Douglas, Ruby Creek, Samahquam, Sardis, Scowlitz, Seabird Is., Sechelt, Seton Lake, Seton Portage, Shalalth, Skookumchuk, Skwah, Skulkaya, Slave, Sliammon, Spuzzum, Squamish, Squilla, Sumas, Tsartlip, Tsawoot, Tzeachton, Uchuckllesaht, Williams Lake, Yale.

Please note there may be alternate ways of spelling these Band names.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Oblates of Mary Immaculate [item # 01867] Sisters of Saint Ann [item # 05020, 01497]

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

- 1911 Agreement for the Operation of St. Mary's Boarding School, between His Majesty the King, represented by the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, and the Archdiocese of Vancouver. [item # 01147]
- 1916 Agreement for the Operation of St. Mary's Boarding School, between His Majesty the King, represented by the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, and the Archdiocese of Vancouver. [item # 01146]
- 1962 Agreement for the Operation of Mission Indian Residential School, between Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada and Indianescom (a company controlled by the Oblate Order). [item # 01318]
- 1970 Chaplaincy Agreement between the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and John Hennesy, O.M.I., to provide chaplaincy services to the students and staff of St. Mary's Student Residence [item # 02002]
- 1972 Chaplaincy Agreement between the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and John Hennessy, O.M.I., to provide chaplaincy services to the students and staff of St. Mary's Student Residence. [item # 01995A]
- 1979 Chaplaincy Agreement between Indian and Northern Affairs and James Carney, O.M.I., to provide chaplaincy services to the students and staff of St. Mary's Student Residence. [item # 00383A]
- 1981 Chaplaincy Agreement between Indian and Northern Affairs and James Carney, O.M.I., to provide chaplaincy services to the students and staff of St. Mary's Student Residence. [item # 02782A]
- 1982 Chaplaincy Agreement between Indian and Northern Affairs and James Carney, O.M.I., to provide chaplaincy services to the students and staff of St. Mary's Student Residence. [item # 02765A]

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO ABUSE

We have knowledge of one individual who has been convicted for incidents of abuse at St. Mary's IRS. In January 2005, Gerald Mathieu Moran was convicted of 12 counts of indecent assault for incidents that occurred at St. Mary's IRS in 1959 and 1960, and Kamloops IRS from 1960 to 1965. [Newspaper Article, 2005 01 21]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

St. Mary's was the first Indian Residential School to open in British Columbia, and it was the last residential school to close in British Columbia. [item # 00010, 02977]

Incidents

In 1928, two female students attempted to set fire to the school. The Principal turned them over to the provincial police without notifying the Department of Indian Affairs. The students were committed for trial and sent to the Oakalla jail. When they appeared before the County Court, the judge turned them over to the local Indian Agent who transferred the students to Kamloops IRS. [item # 01504]

In May and June of 1956, three teen-aged students at the school broke into the principal's office and forged four cheques. Two of the cheques were cashed successfully, but the students were apprehended as they attempted to cash the remaining two cheques. Charges were laid, and the students received suspended sentences on the condition that the money be repaid. [item # 02314]

An incident occurred in September 1969 when three intermediate boys were caught sniffing nail polish. The Principal of the school stated that he accosted the boys and administered corporal punishment the following morning. The boys were warned they would be expelled if they made any further attempts to sniff nail polish. [item # 00308]

Vocational Training

Although St. Mary's IRS was not formally designated as an "Industrial School", students were taught practical skills. In 1864, the boys' activities are described as "industrial pursuits of agriculture, carpentry, catching and curing fish." [item # 05038] As early as the 1870's it is reported that students worked in the kitchen, bakery, sawmill and farm. The boys were taught farming and trades, while the girls learned sewing, spinning and knitting. [item # 05049] The students attended school on a half-day schedule; the other half of the day was spent pursuing manual work. [item # 01453]

In the 1930's, vocational training for the boys expanded into shoe repair, carpentry, and blacksmithing. [item # 01989, 01710, 01716]. By 1945, vocational training for the boys included advanced carpentry and woodworking, shoe repair, stationary engineering, dairying, farming and logging. [item # 04077]

In the 1930's and 1940's the girls' training expanded into cooking and house-keeping as well as sewing, darning, weaving, spinning and knitting. [item # 80090, 80096, 04030]

In 1946, students began full-time academic instruction; hours of vocational training were subsequently reduced. Students continued vocational training at the school, however, until 1966. [item # 80183, 01265]

Health at the School

There were recurring outbreaks of influenza, pneumonia, measles, chicken pox, mumps and scarlet fever at the school. [item # 80169, 80174, 80183, 80167, 80189]

In 1905, there is a reference to cases of diphtheria at the school. In 1906, the principal, Father Marchal, died of diphtheria. [item # 01424, 01432] In 1916 and 1919, there were outbreaks of smallpox reported at the school. [item # 01467, 01479]

From 1936 to 1955, a Preventorium operated at the school for children with tuberculosis. It was administered by the Medical Branch of the Department, and staffed by the Sisters of Saint Ann, with the assistance of a nurse. The children received religious instruction, as well as abbreviated academic instruction, and limited manual training. [item # 00095, 80029, 80092, 03379, 80096] The Preventorium also received children who were not students at the school. Many of these children were former patients at the Coqualeetza Indian Hospital who required continuing convalescent care. [item # 04627]

There are also reports of eye disease at the school. In 1932 there were seven cases of trachoma at the school, and in 1949 there were seven positive cases of trachoma, two doubtful and three suspect cases. [item # 80169, 01631]. Finally, in 1954, there were seven cases of acute conjunctivitis reported at the school. [item # 09261]

Farming Operations

From the school's inception, farming operations comprised an important part of the school curriculum and activities. As early as 1863, there is a report that the students assisted the priests in planting over 10,000 cabbage plants. Throughout the early years of the school, agricultural training was emphasized over academic pursuits, since the food supply of the school depended on successful harvests. [item # 05020]

In 1914, the Department donated to the school a large number of fruit trees. Over the years, there are numerous references to the orchards at the school and to the amount of fruit that was canned/preserved by the Sisters and female students. [item # 01449, 03012, 80174, 80180, 80182, 03357, 03364, 03372C, 01989] In addition to the fruit trees, the school's crops included potatoes, cabbages, and turnips [item # 00066, 05020]

The school also relied on livestock to meet its food requirements. Dairy cows, cattle, chickens and hogs provided the children and staff with supplies of milk, beef, eggs, chicken and pork. A report dated in 1931, indicates that all the milk produced on the farm went to the children at the school, with each child receiving at least a pint of milk daily. [item # 03372C, 03357, 03388D, 02314, 02313, 04021, 05049]

With the move to the new school in 1961, farming operations ceased at the school. [item # 07271]

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Father Leon Fouquet	Principal and Founder	1862
Father Florimond Gendre	Principal	1862-1864
Father Grandidier	Principal	1864-1866
Father Denis Lamure	Principal	1866-1870
Father Paul Durieu	Principal	1870-1875
Father Alphonse Carion	Principal	1875-1882
Father Martin	Principal	1882-1884

Father Chirouse	Principal	1884-1888
Father Cornellier	Principal	1888-1892
Father Bedard	Principal	1892-1895
Father E.M. Bunoz	Principal	1895
Father Chirouse	Principal	1895-1899
Father Bedard	Principal	1899-1902
Father Tavernier	Principal	1902-1905
Father Charles Marchal	Principal	1905-1906
Father John O'Neill	Principal	1907-1910
Father Tavernier	Principal	1910-1911
Father Patrick Collins	Principal	1911-1912
Father Rohr	Principal	1912-1916
Father Tavernier	Principal	1916
Father Rohr	Principal	1916-1920
Father Duplanil	Principal	1920-1926
Father H. Barney	Principal	1926-1927
Father Maillard	Principal	1927-1930
Father P. Fahlman	Principal	1930-1933
Father Gillen	Principal	1933-1936
Father Fergus O'Grady	Principal	1936-1939
Father Fleury	Principal	1939-1948
Father John Hennessy	Principal	1948-1954
Father John Ryan	Principal	1954-1960
Father M. Kearney	Principal	1960-1963
Father Herbert Dunlop	Principal	1963-1968
Father A. Morris	Principal	1968-1969
Bro. Terrence McNamara	Administrator	1969-1971
Father G. Kelly	Administrator	1971-1972
Father Herbert Dunlop	Administrator	1972-1973
Joe Aleck	Administrator	1973-1984

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