

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. Paul's IRS
School Narrative
September 1, 2004**

This School Narrative summarizes documents that provide an over-view of the history and administration of the school.

NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS

C. 1900-1923

- **Indian Boarding School, at Squamish Mission, Burrard Inlet [Item # 00406]**
- **Squamish Boarding School [Item # 00412]**
- **Squamish Indian Boarding School [Item # 02302]**
- **Squamish Mission Boarding School [Item 00502]**
- **Squamish Mission Indian Boarding School [Item # 00501]**
- **St. Paul's Boarding School [Item # 00927]**
- **St. Paul's School [Item # 00928]**
- **St. Paul's School (Squamish Mission Boarding School) [Item # 02304]**
- **North Vancouver Indian Boarding School [Item # 00441]**

C. 1923-1959

- **Squamish Indian Residential School [Item # 02349, 02403¹ and 00591²]**
- **Squamish Mission Residential School [Item # 02391]**
- **Squamish Residential School [Item # 00128]**
- **Squamish Boarding School [Item # 00032]**
- **North Vancouver (Squamish) Indian Residential School [Item # 02496]**
- **St. Paul's Indian Residential School [Item # 02402]**
- **St. Paul's Indian Boarding School [Item # 01755]**
- **St. Paul's School [Item # 02405³]**

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

1894 Petition from the Chiefs of the Squamish Band for the establishment of an Industrial School on their Reserve. [Item # 00355 and 00355A]

¹ Government states to Indian Agent that the official name of the school is "Squamish Indian Residential School" and that it should be referred to as such in future communications.

² Government affirms that the name of the school is, "Squamish Indian Residential School".

³ Indian Agent states to Government that the Roman Catholic Authorities have listed the school as St. Paul's; however, that he will follow the Government's instructions regarding the official name of the school (Squamish Indian Residential School) and that he has reminded the Reverend Sisters in charge of the school of the official name as desired by the Government.

- 1895 Petition from Chiefs of the Squamish, Sliaman and Sechelt tribes for an Indian School at Squamish Mission received by the Government and in reply the Chiefs informed that an item to provide for a school would be inserted in the Estimates. [Item # 00356A]
- 1895 People of the Squamish Mission set out to clear the grub on the ten acres of land that they selected and reserved for the site of the school. [Item # 00359A]
- Government states that a provision was made for a Day School and not an Industrial School/Boarding School. [Item # 00360]
- 1896 Chiefs of locality renew interest in the establishment of an Indian School. [Item # 00362]
- Paul Durieu, O.M.I., R.C. Bishop asks that an appropriation of [REDACTED] dollars be voted by Parliament for the creation of suitable school buildings. [Item # 00374]
- 1897 Paul Durieu, Bishop of New Westminister, proposes to the Government that he will agree to erect suitable school buildings and furnish and equip the same if the Government agrees to grant a yearly allowance of [REDACTED] for 60 Indian children. [Item # 00385]
- 1898 Although refused Government funding in 1898, Bishop Durieu with the hope of per capita funding in 1899, erected a school building for the accommodation of fifty children on the property of the Sisters of Child Jesus. [Item # 00393 and 00065]
- 1899 School opened in January in a small wood building put up by Indians under the direction of Bishop Durieu. [Item # 00441]
- 1900 Renewed request, by A. Dontenwill, O.M.I., Bishop of New Westminister, for a grant for boarding fifty children. [Item 00406]
- Recommendation that [REDACTED] be provided in the supplementary estimates, to enable the Government to pay a per capita grant at the school. [Item # 00411, 00412 and 00412A]
- 1913 No Day Scholars attending the school. [Item # 00118]
- 1922 School property held under title by a Miss Marie Chaminade (Sister Mary Amy, Principal of the Squamish Mission Indian Boarding School). Block 69 (4 acres) on which the school building and garden are located and Block 123 (5acres) used as a pasturage and potato field. [Item # 00971 and 00980]
- Taxes for 1920-1921 could be payed on the 4 acres on which the school buildings are located but could not be payed on the 5 acres adjoining the school, used for pasture for the cows. Sisters will sell the 5 acre parcel of land to pay unpaid taxes. [Item # 00065]
- Government pays 1921 taxes on Block 69 and consideration given to the same account in future. [Item # 00972]
- Government buys Block 123 (5 acres) from the Sisters for \$2000.00 and payment of arrears of taxes. Land to be used for school purposes. [Item # 00978 and 01046]

Sisters conducting a class for day pupils. These students receiving instruction in the same building as boarding school pupils. [Item # 00007 and 00097]

Special grant provided by Government for Day School activities. [Item # 00927A]

- 1924 Favourable consideration from Government for manual training classes. [Item # 02490]
- 1925 Government agrees to pay back-taxes to the City of North Vancouver for Block 123, D.L. 271, taxes of which were assessed before the Crown acquired title. [Item # 01022]
- 1926 Resolution of the Squamish Indian Band in Council relative to the erection of a combined manual training hall, gymnasium and auditorium for the use of the Indians of the reserve and the pupils of the Squamish Residential School and to be located on the reserve nearest to the school. [Item # 02394 and 02500]
- 1927 Government requests that the official name of the school, "Squamish Indian Residential School", be used. [Item # 02403 and 02405]
- 1928 New Auditorium opened. To provide manual training courses. [Item # 00950]

Government made arrangements for the commutation of local improvement rates regarding Block 123, D.L. 271. Government pays City of North Vancouver for: Sanitary Sewers, Permanent Grading and Pavement. [Item # 01044 and 01047]

Manual Training Instructor hired for the Squamish Indian Reserve manual training school (second story of the new community building) which is attached to the Squamish Indian Residential School. [Item # 02508 and 02517]

- 1947 Provincial Recreational Group organized in connection with the School. [Item # 03109]
- 1954 School management experiencing financial difficulty. [Item # 01316]
- 1956 Due to overcrowding, arrangements made for former boarding school pupils to attend as day scholars. [Item # 01359]
- 1958 Church authorities advised that steps must be taken to close boarding school (church owned) because of fire hazard. [Item # 00566]

Minister approves School closure (September 1, 1958); however, closing deferred 1 year on condition that enrolment kept at 50 and night watchman employed. [Item # 00573]

- 1959 Squamish Indian Residential School officially closed September 1, 1959. [Item # 00563]

Residential School (for demolition), the convent (Nuns' residence to be retained) and the Catholic parochial high school (under construction) situated on land owned by the Sisters of Child Jesus. Crown-owned day school (St. Paul's Day School) proposed for construction on Crown-owned land purchased in 1922. [Item # 03709]

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Dates managed by Church

From its inception in 1898/1899 to 1959, the Roman Catholic Religious Teaching Order, the Sisters of Child Jesus, owned and managed the Squamish/St. Paul's Residential School. [Item # 00490 and 03712]

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- 1898 Bishop Durieu erected school building for 50 pupils. [Item # 00393]
- 1899 School opened in small wood building and enlarged at Sisters' expense. [Item # 00441]
- 1903 A new wing was added at Sisters' expense. [Item # 00441]
- 1908 Description of the school property: Buildings of frame; original building old and in poor condition. New building annexed to original building recently erected. [Item # 00427]
Approval for the installation of two hot-air furnaces. [Item # 02256]
- 1911 Description of the school property: One girls dormitory, two boys dormitories, two boys classrooms, one girls classroom, sewing room and a recently constructed building constructed for hospital accommodation purposes. [Item # 00926A]
A new school was erected for white children on the convent grounds. [Item # 00433]
- 1920 Sisters in charge of the school repaired foundation and sewerage system at their own expense. [Item # 02283 and 02287]
- 1922 School buildings are located on 4 acres owned by the Sister of Child Jesus in the City of North Vancouver close to the Indian Reservation. [Item # 00065]
Authorization given for installation of fire escapes. [Item # 02294]
- 1923 Authorization given to arrange to have 6 fire extinguishers re-charged, fire alarm gongs overhauled and any repairs required carried out. [Item # 02302]
Fire alarm system installed. [Item # 02306]
Installation of new furnace. [Item # 02356]
Lumber for re-flooring of boys' rec room and shed and for sidewalks. [Item # 02349]
- 1924 Lumber supplied for a floor in the boys' playroom. [Item # 02377]
Twelve enamel wash tubs installed. [Item # 02371]
Lumber purchased to repair broken sidewalks. [Item # 02373]
Description of the school property: In addition to the main building there is a cottage and a laundry. [Item # 00101]
- 1927 Overhaul and repair of furnaces. [Item # 02402]
Additional fire escape for Junior Boy's Dormitory. [Item # 02413]
- 1928 New Auditorium opened. To provide manual training courses. [Item # 00950]
Construction of a fire escape. [Item # 02418]

Joint sewage disposal scheme for School with the Squamish Auditorium Building through Mission Reserve to the City of North Vancouver sewer outfall. [Item # 02432]

1931 Flooring in playroom repaired. [Item # 02464]
Two wringers and two boiler for laundry. [Item # 02462]

1932 New furnace installed. [Item # 02471]
Fire protection in the heating system undertaken. [Item # 02485]

1933 New furnace installed. [Item # 03024]

Completion of new building near school for Sisters to reside, thus, creating more room in school to accommodate more boarders. [Item # 00476]

Description of the school property: School buildings very old. School buildings repaired and re-roofed. Three classrooms - two located in old building and one located in the Auditorium building. Manual Training and Senior Grades are accommodated in the Auditorium Building. [Item # 00486A]

Description of the school property: School building, owned by the Sisters of Instruction of the Child Jesus, has two classrooms, a kitchen, four dormitories, two dining-rooms for the children and one dining-room for the priest on Mission Reserve who boards at the School. There are also a chapel and several small rooms. There are three bathrooms, four wooden fire-escapes. Building of frame construction. Day school call room in the Auditorium building. [Item # 00490]

1935 Relining the back of the building and painting of building. [Item # 00882]

1938 New showers. [Item # 03029]

1939 Repairs to blocked sewage system. [Item # 03032]
The Auditorium is the Day School and the Residential School is a separate building which belongs to the Order of the Sisters of the Child Jesus. [Item # 03041]

1940 Old fire escape ladder replaced by steps. [Item # 00894]

1942 Vandals damaged drinking fountain, buildings and fences. [Item # 03058]

1944 Repair of furnace. [Item # 03063]

1947 Exterior of School painted. [Item # 03102A]

1949 Junior and Intermediate class-rooms, the dining room and kitchen relined and painted; new sink installed in kitchen; corridor on main floor covered with a composition flooring and cupboards installed; removal of raised platform in intermediate class-room; and furnace in basement replaced. [Item # 01174]

Plumbing repairs to washbasins and pipes in the Band owned Auditorium. [Item # 03207]

New furnace. [Item # 03175]

Repairs to flooring and wallboard; new hot water tank and tanks for toilets [Item # 03144 and 03149]

Description of the school property: Two girls dormitories and three boys dormitories totalling 32, 767 cubic feet. [Item # 00918]

The three classrooms, sewing room and children's dining-room renovated and boys' dormitory lined. [Item # 03171]

- 1950 Description of the school property: Senior room located in the gymnasium building over the main floor. [Item # 00618]
- 1957 School building condemned as a fire hazard. [Item # 01199]
- 1958 Church authorities advised that steps must be taken to close boarding school (church owned) because of fire hazard. [Item # 00566]
- 1959 Residential School (for demolition), the convent (Nuns' residence to be retained) and the Catholic parochial high school (under construction) situated on land owned by the Sisters of Child Jesus. Crown-owned day school (St. Paul's Day School) proposed for construction on Crown-owned land purchased in 1922. [Item # 03709]

LAND

- 1895 People of the Squamish Mission set out to the clear grub on the ten acres of land that they selected and reserved for the site of the school. [Item # 00359A]
- 1898 Bishop Durieu erected a school building for the accommodation of fifty children on the property of the Sisters of Child Jesus in the city of North Vancouver close to the Indian Reservation. [Item # 00393 and 00065]
- 1922 School property held under title by a Miss Marie Chaminade (Sister Mary Amy, Principal of the Squamish Mission Indian Boarding School). Block 69 (4 acres) on which the school building and garden are located and Block 123 (5 acres) used as a pasturage and potato field. [Item # 00971 and 00980]

Government agrees to pay 1921 taxes on Block 69 and consideration will be given to the same account in future years. [Item # 00972]

Government agrees to buy Block 123 (5 acres) - located across the street from the school - from the Sisters of Child Jesus for [REDACTED] and payment of arrears of taxes and interest on tax. Land to be used by Sisters for school purposes. [Item # 00978]

- 1923 Government assumes the payment of taxes on Lot 69 [property not owned by the Government], on which the school buildings are situated. [Item # 01001A]

- 1928 Government made arrangements for the commutation of local improvement rates regarding Block 123, D.L. 271. Government pays City of North Vancouver for: Sanitary Sewers, Permanent Grading and Pavement. [Item # 01044 and 01047]
- Levelling of Block 123, District Lot 271, for use as playground for pupils. [Item # 01053]
- 1948 Government paid full taxes on Block 69 for the period 1921 to 1932 and 5/6th of the taxes from 1932 to 1938. Regulations no longer allow the Government to pay taxes on the site of the school. [Item # 03714]
- 1950 Clearing of undergrowth on Block 123 D.L. 271. [Item # 01257]
- 1954 Clearing and grading Block 123, D.L. 271 to provide playground. [Item # 01248]
- 1959 The Residential School (for demolition) the convent (Nuns' residence to be retained) and the parochial high school (under construction) are situated on land owned by the teaching Order of Sisters of the Child Jesus. [Item # 03709]

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

#00134	00/00/0000	Location of School
#00378	00/00/0000	Proposed Plan of Indian School at Squamish Mission
#00483	00/00/0000	Photo
#01155	00/00/0000	Plan
#02310	00/00/0000	Location of Break Glass switches in St. Paul's School
#02316	00/00/0000	Proposed Fire Escapes for St. Paul's Indian School
#02316A	00/00/0000	Proposed Fire Escapes for St. Paul's Indian School
#02316B	00/00/0000	Proposed Fire Escapes for St. Paul's Indian School
#02491	00/00/0000	Plan
#02499B-E	00/00/0000	Proposed combined gymnasium, manual training school and auditorium for Squamish Indian Reserve (circa 1928)
#03037	00/00/0000	Location sketch of Residential School, Staff House, Convent and Day School

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

1899	6-12 students in residence
1905	57 students in residence
1911	50-54 students in residence
1922	15-19 - day school pupils ⁴

⁴ Receiving instruction along with the pupils of the boarding school. They are not in a separate building. [Item # 00097]

1923	22 - day school pupils ⁵
1924	29 - day school pupils ⁶
1925	32 - day school pupils ⁷
1926	30 - day school pupils ⁸
1927	50 students in residence and 19-25 day school pupils ⁹
1928	50 students in residence and 35 day school pupils ¹⁰
1931	55 students in residence
1933	57-60 students in residence and 15 day school pupils
1934	59 students in residence
1935	59-61 students in residence
1936	62 students in residence
1937	60-62 students in residence
1940	61-73 students in residence and 26 day school pupils ¹¹
1941	62-65 students in residence
1942	63-75 students in residence
1943	61-69 students in residence
1944	61-69 students in residence
1945	66-67 students in residence
1946	67-73 students in residence
1947	72-76 students in residence
1948	76-85 students in residence
1949	77-80 students in residence and 49 day school pupils
1950	78-89 students in residence and 47 day school pupils
1951	79 students in residence
1953	53-56 - day school pupils
1954	91 students in residence and 59-57 day school pupils
1957	78-90 students in residence and 70-72 day school pupils
1958	60-79 students in residence and 70-90 day school pupils
1959	87-90 - day school pupils

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

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

⁵ Receiving instruction in the same classrooms as the boarding school pupils. [Item # 02651]

⁶ Receiving instruction in the same classrooms as the residential pupils. [Item # 00101]

⁷ Receiving instruction in the same classrooms as the residential pupils. [Item # 02656]

⁸ Receiving instruction in the same classrooms as the residential pupils. [Item # 00104]

⁹ Day pupils receiving instruction in the same classrooms as the residential pupils. [Item # 00109]

¹⁰ Day pupils receiving instruction in a classroom situated in the new Community Hall. [Item # 00111]

¹¹ Day School pupils attend the Residential School classes and receive same academic education. [Item # 00133]

Burrard #3; Musqueam; Nanaimo; Squamish; Squamish River; Creekside; Squamish #1 (Mission Reserve); Squamish #5 (Capilano Reserve); Mount Currie; Cape Mudge; Skwah; Chehalis; Chilliwack; and Burrard

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

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Sisters of Child Jesus [Item # 00490 and 03712]
Archbishop of New Westminster [Item # 00374 and 00406]
Sisters of St. Joseph [Item # 02336]
Providence Orphanage [Item # 01140]
Archbishop of Vancouver [Item # 03605 and 00430]
Bishop of London [Item # 03392]
Oblates of Mary Immaculate (Joseph Guy, O.M.I. and/or Father Welch, O.M.I.) [Item # 00928 and 02347]
Oblate of Mary Immaculate (J.O. Plourde, O.M.I., Indian Welfare & Training Commission) [Item # 03136]

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

- 1911 Agreement for the future maintenance and management of the Squamish Boarding School was sent to the Most Rev. Neil McNeil (Archbishop of Vancouver). [Item # 00430]
- 1916 Agreement between Department of Indian Affairs and Most Rev. Timothy Casey Archbishop of Vancouver regarding the Squamish Boarding School. [Item # 03605]
- 1958 Agreement between Government and Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation regarding Join High School. [Item # 01191C]

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

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

Physical Abuse

An Extract dated May 18, 1942 states, "The Council also requests that I interview the Rev. Principal of Squamish School regarding complaints of the pupils against two staff members for slapping the children and other similar treatment." [Item # 00903 and 00903A]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Farm Operation

- 1911 Amount of land for gardens - four acres upon which are grown vegetables and small fruits of all kinds. [Item # 00926A]

- 1922 Block 69 (4 acres) on which the school building and garden are located and Block 123 (5 acres) used as a pasturage and potato field. [Item # 00971]
- 1923 Block 69 (4 acres) has an orchard and vegetable garden. [Item # 01000A]
- 1933 Three acres of garden and orchard where fruits and vegetables are grown and used by school. [Item # 00486A]
- 1937 Garden provides fruit and vegetables during the summer and 250 poultry produces sufficient eggs during the year. [Item # 00272]
- 1939 Garden maintained and 150 poultry provide eggs. [Item # 00285]
- 1941 Garden maintained but poultry reduced to 50 owing to disease among hens. [Item # 00291]
- 1944 No farm operated in connection with the school. [Item # 00298C]
- 1954 No farm operated but there is a kitchen garden and fruit trees. [Item # 00329C]
- 1956 Small kitchen garden and orchard operated. [Item # 00339]

Health Issues

- 1923 58 Day and Boarding School students suffered from influenza. [Item # 02651]
- 1924 Medical and surgical authorization given for pupils with adenoids and diseased tonsils. Authorization for extracting and filling teeth of pupils given. [Item # 01758 and 01761]
- 1927 Dental services rendered to pupils. [Item # 00541, 00541A and 00541B]
- 1928 Dental services rendered to pupils. [Item # 01797 and 01797A]
- 1929 Tonsils of six children removed and dental services rendered. [Item # 01799]
Hospital treatment for two pupils with smallpox. [Item # 00542]
- 1930 Nurse recommends a dentist visit school and three students have their eyes checked. [Item # 01821 and 01823]
- 1931 Pupils examined and vaccinated by travelling nurse. [Item # 01827]
Travelling nurse recommends a dentist visit school. [Item # 01826]
Government authorizes dental services required by pupils. [Item # 01833]
Accident case (broken wrist). [Item # 01842]
- 1935 Epidemic of chicken-pox. [Item # 01884]

Truancy

- 1931 Irregular attendance of several of the pupils. [Item # 00545]

- 1940 Several cases of truancy. [Item # 00892]
- 1947 Delinquent girl apprehended and returned to school. [Item # 00913A]

Vocational Training

- 1911 Boys are taught gardening, painting and general carpentering. Girls are taught dress making, housework, cooking, lace making and fancy work. [Item # 00926A]
- 1928 Manual Training Instructor hired for the Squamish Indian Reserve manual training school (second story of the new community building) which is attached to the Squamish Indian Residential School. [Item # 02508 and 02517]
- 1933 Girls receive instruction Cooking, Mending, Darning, Sewing. Boys work in the garden and do other work about the school. [Item # 00486A]
- 1949 Manual Training, Gardening and Domestic Science. [Item # 01174]

Complaints/Investigations/Incidents

- 1930 Poor conditions; specifically, regarding food and cleanliness of the pupils. [Item # 00457]
- 1931 Attention drawn to inadequate supply of milk and eggs. [Item # 00467]
Attention drawn to pupils being insufficiently fed and given a bath. [Item # 00469]
- 1932 Attention drawn to inadequate manual training progress. [Item # 02573]
- 1933 Attention drawn to lack of proper accommodation and fire risk. [Item # 03025]
- 1934 Theft of tools from manual training department. No charges laid. [Item # 02609 and 00956A]
- 1940 Disciplinarian objected to by the boys removed. [Item # 00894]
- 1944 Complaint by Indians regarding short periods devoted to education and long periods to religious instruction. [Item # 00906A]
- 1947 Break and enter and theft of goods at School. [Item # 00913D]
- 1952 Investigation regarding child who absented herself from the living quarters but continued to attend class as a day school student. [Item # 00607]
Investigation of the overcrowded conditions in the School. [Item # 03168A]

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Sister Mary Amy	Principal/Provincial	1899- August 1939
Sister Mary Eugene	Matron	1906 (3 months)
Sister Mary Ann	Principal	February 1911

Sister M. Alix	Acting Principal	1925 (period unknown) and September 1928
Sister Hieronymie	Acting Principal	July-Unknown 1931
Sister M. Alix	Principal	August 1939 - July 1947
Sister M. Michaela	Principal	August 1947-August 1959
Sister Martin Leo	Principal	March 1949
Sister M. Alix	Principal	June 1954

Narrative Completed: September 1, 2004

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



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