

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. Philip's Indian Residential School
IAP School Narrative**

NAME IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (Schedule E/F)

St. Philip's

OTHER NAMES KNOWN AS (AKAs)

1928 to 1968 St. Philip's Indian Residential School [SPR-000097; SPR-000600-0001]
1968 to 1969 St. Philip's Student Residence [SPR-000602-0001; SPR-004374-0001]

LOCATION

St. Philip's IRS was located on the Keeseekoose Reserve, Pelly Indian Agency, Saskatchewan [SPR-001217-0001].

PROVINCE/TERRITORY

Saskatchewan

OPERATING DATES AS AN INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

These dates represent the time during which the federal government of Canada was responsible for the operation of the Indian Residential School, excluding any periods of closure.

April 16, 1928 to June 30, 1969

OPERATING DATES CONTEXT

The St. Philip's IRS opened on April 16, 1928 [SPR-000097; SPR-000962 pg. 3]. In 1968 the administration of the classroom block was separated from the administration of the residence [SPR-000533-0002]. The IRS closed on June 30, 1969, and the residence was demolished in 1970 [SPR-004370-0000].

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

Roman Catholic Church

1929 to 1969 Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate, and later the Oblate Indian and Eskimo Commission (INDIANESCOM) [SPR-001033 pg. 2; SPR-000533-0002; SPR-005069-0002]
1929 to 1952 Oblate Sisters of the Sacred Heart and Mary Immaculate [IMR-000099 pg. 1; SPR-004751]

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Date	Event	Document Reference
1928	The St. Philip's IRS opened on April 16, 1928. The IRS was owned by the federal government and was conducted under the auspices of the Oblate	SPR-000097 SPR-002717 SPR-001033

St. Philip's IRS

	Fathers of Mary Immaculate.	
1956	Boys from the Cote Day Schools came to St. Philip's IRS to take shop class.	SPR-002509 SPR-002225
1957 to 1958	Farming operations at the IRS ceased and the land was ceded from the federal government to the Keeseekoose Band in the Spring of 1957. The IRS barn was to be turned over to the Band in order that they could dismantle it and use the materials to build a hall. No information was found to confirm if the barn was dismantled.	SPR-001202-0002 SPR-001203
1961	The new classroom block had been completed and used since September 1961, and it officially opened in May 1962. Two classrooms also operated in the main IRS building, and another classroom operated in a one-room building west of the main building.	SPR-000434 SPR-112991 SPR-004466-0001
August 20, 1964	The federal government and the Oblate Indian and Eskimo Welfare Commission (INDIANESCOM) signed an agreement for the operation the IRS.	SPR-000508 SPR-005069-0002
1968	The name of the IRS changed from the St. Philip's Indian Residential School to the St. Philip's Student Residence. The administration of the classrooms and residence separated as of September 1968. The Administrator was responsible for the student residence, and the Principal was responsible for classroom administration. During the 1968/69 school year, classrooms operated in the separate classroom block and in a second floor classroom in the main IRS building.	GUY-000440 SPR-000600-0001 SPR-000602-0001 BAX-000911-0000 BAX-000911-0001 GDC-021764 SPR-112947-0000 SPR-112947-0001
1969	The IRS closed on June 30, 1969. In July, the Chief and Council of the Keeseekoose Reserve took over responsibility for the former residence.	SPR-004370-0000 SPR-004374-0001 SPR-004374-0002 SPR-004375-0000 SPR-004375-0001
1970	By October 1970, the former St. Philip's residence was demolished	SPR-004371 SPR-004370-0000 SPR-004370-0001

EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

Grades taught at the Indian Residential School

School Years	Grades offered	Document Reference
1928/29	Grades 1 to 4	SPR-001033
1929/30	Grades 1 to 3, 5	SPR-001034, pg. 28
1930/31	Grades 1 to 3, 6	SPR-000961
1931/32	Grades 1 to 4, 6	SPR-000960
1932/33	Grades 1 to 3, 6	SPR-000959
1933/34 to 1936/37	Grades 1 to 5	SPR-000958 SPR-000957 SPR-000956 SPR-001035
1937/38 to 1938/39	Grades 1 to 6	SPR-001036 SPR-001037
1939/40 to	No information found	

1940/41		
1941/42 to 1943/44	Grades 1 to 7	SPR-000324 SPR-000329 SPR-000335
1944/45	Grades 1 to 8	SPR-000339
1945/46	Grades 1 to 7	SPR-000343
1946/47 to 1947/48	Grades 1 to 8	SPR-000347 SPR-000351
1948/49 to 1949/50	Grades 1 to 7	SPR-000355 SPR-000359
1950/51 to 1951/52	Grades 1 to 8	SPR-000363 SPR-000367
1952/53	Grades 1 to 9	SPR-000371
1953/54	Kindergarten, Grades 1 to 9	SPR-004358 SPR-000556
1954/55 to 1955/56	Kindergarten, Grades 1 to 8	SPR-004293 SPR-004284
1956/57	Grades 1 to 9	SPR-004272
1957/58	Grades 1 to 8	SPR-004263
1958/59 to 1964/65	Beginner, Grades 1 to 8	SPR-004254 SPR-000396 SPR-004355 SPR-004227 SPR-004217 SPR-004205 SPR-000400
1965/66 to 1967/68	Grades 1 to 8	SPR-004191 SPR-004185 SPR-004180
1968/69	Div. 1, Grades 1 to 8	SPR-000602-0001

Other Schools Attended by Residents

There is no indication from documents that residents at St. Phillip's IRS attended classes at other schools.

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

School Years	Number of Residents	If applicable, day scholars	Document Reference
1928/29	42	No information found	SPR-001033
1929/30	51	No information found	SPR-001034, pg. 28
1930/31	56	No information found	SPR-000961
1931/32	62	No information found	SPR-000960
1932/33	66	No information found	SPR-000959
1933/34	67	No information found	SPR-000958
1934/35	71	No information found	SPR-000957
1935/36	72	No information found	SPR-000956
1936/37	76	No information found	SPR-001035
1937/38	77	No information found	SPR-001036
1938/39	77	No information found	SPR-001037
1939/40 to 1940/41	No information found	No information found	
1941/42	85	No information found	SPR-000324, pg. 5
1942/43	75	No information found	SPR-000329, pg. 5
1943/44	79	No information found	SPR-000335, pg. 6
1944/45	81	No information found	SPR-000339, pg. 5
1945/46	90	No information found	SPR-000343, pg. 6

1946/47	88	No information found	SPR-000350, pg. 5
1947/48	104	No information found	SPR-000351, pg. 5
1948/49	116	No information found	SPR-000355, pg. 6
1949/50	111	No information found	SPR-000359, pg. 6
1950/51	120	No information found	SPR-000363, pg. 6
1951/52	113	No information found	SPR-000367, pg. 6
1952/53	120	No information found	SPR-000371, pg. 7
1953/54	124	25	SPR-000556, pg. 13 SPR-004364
1954/55	128	48	SPR-004292 SPR-004286
1955/56	120	64	SPR-004284
1956/57	118	70	SPR-004272 SPR-004270
1957/58	113	60	SPR-004262 SPR-004255
1958/59	119	60	SPR-004254 SPR-000730
1959/60	107	84	SPR-004237 SPR-004240
1960/61	126	88	SPR-004232 SPR-004231
1961/62	116	151	SPR-004224 SPR-004222
1962/63	102	154	SPR-004354
1963/64	125	122	SPR-000547
1964/65	132	134	SPR-000549-0001, pg. 1 SPR-000552, pg. 1
1965/66	101	177	SPR-004190 SPR-004189
1966/67	100	203	SPR-000587-0001
1967/68	82	208	SPR-000600-0001
1968/69	49	231	SPR-000602-0001

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

School Years	Special Programs Offered	Document Reference
1928 to 1929	Football, baseball, basketball and volleyball equipment were purchased for the IRS.	SPR-002747 SPR-002818
1957	Midget and Juvenile Hockey were played at the IRS. Air Cadets was also a program at the IRS.	SPR-004976 SPR-004975 SPR-004974
1965	Air cadets, swimming, picnics, picture shows, softball team, gymnastics, and Senior girls' club were student activities.	SPR-002467-0001

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Date	Event	Document Reference
1928	Since the newly constructed St. Philip's IRS did not have a barn and outbuildings, the federal Inspector of Indian Agencies suggested that an	SPR-002740 SPR-002756 SPR-002787-0001

	old boarding school barn be used, and that the old school house could be used as a store house. It was also recommended that a new barn be built at St. Philip's, as the old barn was poorly constructed and belonged to the Roman Catholic Church. From August to October it was reported that St. Philip's IRS was still using the old buildings that were part of Mission property for barns and "other purposes" which were not specified.	
1930	Outbuildings for the IRS were built during the year. An addition to the IRS built the previous summer was to be used as a "drying room." However, it proved difficult to heat. The radiators froze and burst. A stove was installed, and the room was used instead by the night watchman.	SPR-001034, pg. 24 SPR-002868
1946	A new addition built at the IRS allowed for a large basement play room, a chapel on the first floor and additional dormitory space on the second floor.	SPR-002280
1953 to 1954	In the fall of 1953, a temporary classroom was established in the rectory to address overcrowding. The classroom was constructed on the porch of the rectory. Prior to 1953 the Oblates had also purchased an 'old provincial school' from the provincial government with the intent of converting it to a vocational training shop. However, due to classroom overcrowding it was converted into a fifth classroom in 1954 to accommodate the increase in students.	SPR-001418 SPR-001425 SPR-001426 SPR-001442-0001 SPR-001444-0001 SPR-002579
1954	Ownership of a building used as a classroom was transferred from the Oblates to the federal government.	SPR-001457 SPR-001460 SPR-002579
1956	A manual training room was completed at St. Philip's IRS.	SPR-002127-0001 SPR-002140 SPR-002139 SPR-002141 SPR-002142 SPR-002144 SPR-002146 SPR-002148
1956	A sixth classroom in a building situated across the road from the main IRS building operated, and became known as the "cottage school". This classroom building was located on land owned by the Oblates and was described as part of St. Philip's IRS.	SPR-002184-0000 SPR-002184-0001
1957	A 28' x 18' room originally intended for use as a root cellar and later as a work shop by the employees of the IRS, was instead being used as a classroom.	SPR-001171-0000 SPR-001171-0002
1958	The federal government permitted the school barn to be turned over to Keeseekoose Band in order that they could dismantle it and use the materials to build a hall. It is not known if the demolition took place.	SPR-001203
1959	Construction of the new classroom block began.	SPR-000516

1961 to 1962	<p>The new classroom had been in operation as of September 1961, though it officially opened in May 1962. The block contained six classrooms, one industrial arts room, a home economics room, nurse's office, and a gymnasium used by Grades 3 to 8.</p> <p>Two classrooms were in operation at the St. Philip's IRS residence building and one of the playrooms was used to serve noon meals to 140 day pupils. As well, a one room building west of the main building contained one operational classroom.</p>	<p>SPR-000434 SPR-112991 SPR-004466-0001</p>
1969	<p>Shortly after the IRS closed, the Chief and Council of the Keeseekoose Reserve took over responsibility for the former residence.</p>	<p>SPR-004370-0000 SPR-004374-0001 SPR-004374-0002 SPR-004375-0000 SPR-004375-0001</p>
1970	<p>The former St. Philip's IRS residence building was demolished.</p>	<p>SPR-004371 SPR-004370-0000 SPR-004370-0001</p>

PHOTOS, PLANS AND LAYOUT

Date	Description	Document Reference
Undated	Plan: proposed combined day and boarding schools	SPR-004388
Undated	Plan: First floor of St. Philip's IRS	SPR-004389
Undated	Plan: Ground floor of St. Philip's IRS	SPR-004390
Undated	Plan: Left side elevation of St. Philip's IRS	SPR-004391
Undated	Plan: Rear elevation of St. Philip's IRS	SPR-004392
Undated	Plan: Right side elevation of St. Philip's IRS	SPR-004393
Undated	Plan: First and second floor of St. Philip's IRS	SPR-004395
Undated	Plan: Ground floor of St. Philip's IRS	SPR-004396
Undated	Plan: Basement of St. Philip's IRS	SPR-004397
Undated	Plan: Front Elevation of St. Philip's IRS	SPR-004398
Undated	Sketch: Proposed renovations to St. Philip's IRS	SPR-000478
Undated	Plan: Hot water tank, St. Philip's IRS	SPR-004931
1938	Plan: Proposed water main	SPR-002353-0002
1938	Plan: Suggested changes in pump house	SPR-002353-0003
1943	Plan: Basement floor	SPR-002380
1947	Photograph: New wing at St. Philip's	SPR-000419-0001
1956	Map: Keeseekoose and Cote Reserves showing schools and roads	SPR-002511-0001 SPR-002512-0001
1958	Plan: Existing electrical wiring; Basement, Ground and first floor	SPR-004945

1958	Plan: Heating alterations; Basement, Ground and first floor	SPR-004946
1958	Plan: Proposed six classroom block and separate residence for teachers	SPR-004944
1959	Sketch: Water supply system	SPR-004930
1960	Plan: Water supply and fire protection (preliminary)	SPR-004932
1962	Plan: Proposed move of Residence on Keeseekoose Reserve, and combined classroom and residence on Cote Reserve to St. Philip's IRS	SPR-004947
1963	Plan: Staff Residence electrical	SPR-004933
1964	Plan: Sewage disposal system improvements	SPR-004935
1964	Diagram: Improvements to domestic water heating facilities	SPR-004936
1964	Plan: Improvements to fire exits, and complete stairwell enclosures	SPR-004934
1965	Plan: Site data for water supply system	SPR-004938
1965	Revised basement floor plans	SPR-004939
1965	Plan: New sprinkler system; Basement, Ground and first floor	SPR-004940
1965	Plan: New Dishwasher; Fire exit light installation; Fire protection and hot water system improvements; Basement, Scullery and Kitchen layout; Equipment details	SPR-004937
1967	Plan: Electrical revision, Basement, first and second floor	SPR-004942
1967	Site plan of existing buildings and services	SPR-004943

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

To date, we are aware of the following convictions and/or guilty pleas concerning abuse at St. Phillips IRS or of any convicted abusers present at the school.

In May 2004, former Boys Supervisor/Physical Education teacher was found guilty of committing assault causing bodily harm to three individuals while employed at St. Philip's IRS [SPR-002891]. Historical documentation confirms that in 1965 a Boys Supervisor at St. Philip's used a lighter to burn at least six students as a form of punishment [SPR-004483-0000; SPR-004483-0001; SPR-000722]. The supervisor was discharged shortly after the incidents [SPR-000721; SPR-002891].

In 1962, a Boys Supervisor from a Roman Catholic Hostel at Inuvik, Northwest Territories, pled guilty to 5 charges of gross indecency and 5 charges of buggery under ss. 149 and 147 of Criminal Code. An investigation by the RCMP disclosed that the same individual had instigated and carried out acts of gross indecency and buggery with at least three Indian youths while employed as a Boys Supervisor at St. Philip's IRS during the 1958/59 school year [SPR-000882-0006; SPR-000882-0010].

Last updated August 31, 2012

The following suggestions of abuse, listed chronologically, comprise all known identifiable complaints and/or allegations received by federal government officials and all available information regarding the follow-up and outcome.

Incidents (Sexual)

Please see documents above referring to convictions.

Incidents (Physical)

Please see documents above referring to convictions.

Incidents (Student on Student)

No information found

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 1965 Several students who had run away from the IRS were punished by having their hair cut very short. The Principal was advised by the Federal government to stop the practice immediately [SPR-002467-0001].
- 1968 Two female students attempted to commit arson in the dormitory and the laundry of St. Philip's IRS. The students were discharged from the IRS [SPR-005012-0000; SPR-005012-0001].

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Reverend Father Conrad Brouillet	Principal	1928 to 1935
Reverend Father Alphonse Paradis	Acting Principal Principal	February 1935 to March 1936; March 1936 to August 1942
Reverend Father Emile Tetrault	Principal	August 1942 to June 1947
Reverend Father Adeodat Ruest	Principal	1946 to 1953
Reverend Father Jean Lambert	Principal	August 1953 to July 1955
Reverend Father Raymond Beauregard	Principal	1955 to 1957
Reverend Father Gaston Gelinis	Acting Principal	May 24, 1957 to August 1957
Reverend Father Leonard Charron	Principal	August 15, 1957 to September 13, 1964
Reverend Father Edmond Turenne	Principal Administrator	August 1964 to August 1968 September 1968 to June 1969

Narrative Completed: January 9, 2012
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The original school narrative document produced by Canada also contains a number of records that have been separated pending review.



National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA