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**St. John's IRS
School Narrative
June 1, 2006**

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

NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS

- Wapuskaw Mission [00001¹]
- Wapuskaw (Indian School) [00002]
- Athabasca Landing school [00004]
- St. John's Mission Wapuskaw School [00022]
- Wapuscaw School [00023]
- Mission School at Wabiscow [00025]
- Church of England Boarding School at Wapuskow [00078]
- Wabiscow Boarding School [01389]
- Wabiscaw Lake Church of England Boarding School [00033]
- Wabasca C. of E. Indian Residential School #767 [01728A]
- Wabasca ACC IRS [01222]
- St. John's School [ANGMSCC² 87433]
- Wabiskaw C. of E. [AR³ 08629]

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

- 1894 The mission at Wabasca was established in 1894 by the Church of England, and at that time the mission boarded six pupils. The permanent Mission House was planned in the fall of 1894 [00023].
- 1895 Original building erected [00018].
- 1898 At least by September 28, 1898 the Mission School was temporarily closed due to the inability of the Missionary Society to fund it without Government assistance [00015].
- 1898 The Mission requests grants [00016].
- 1898 October 17, 1898 - The government notes that it will give consideration to the school next year when there will be payment under treaty [00017].
- 1899 The Bishop notes that the treaty has now been offered and accepted. He trusts that the government will now offer grants for the school [00018].
- 1900 January 10, 1900 – The government is unable to arrange for a grant for this school [00020].

1 Item numbers without a prefix are for documents cited from the St. John's IRS School collection.

2 Documents cited with the prefix "ANGMSCC" are from the Missionary Society of the Anglican Church of Canada collection. These are not Crown-sourced documents.

3 Documents cited with the prefix "AR" are from the Alberta Regional collection.

- 1900 February 20, 1900 – A letter notes that the officer who will be making the annuity payments under Treaty 8 will report as to the educational requirements of the Indians. Consideration will then be made as to funding based on his findings. In the meantime the Department does not have adequate information to deal with the various applications for aid for Indian education in the Athabasca country [00021].
- 1900 Wabiskaw Church of England day school is listed in the Department's Annual Report. The Church of England proposes having a boarding school at Wabiskaw for 25 pupils during the fiscal year 1901 – 1902. The existing small mission school has a staff of three. The Bishop requests funds towards paying of salaries and for buildings, and requests maintenance grants [AR 08629].
- 1900 December 31, 1900 – The Quarterly Return for St. John's Mission, Wapuskaw School lists 14 students. Twelve of these are noted as "clothed and fed" and "no grant". Two are listed as "day scholar" [00022].
- 1901 October 11, 1901 – A representative of the Bishop notes that grant applied for has not been allowed, but requests a grant for 15 pupils, or for an emergency grant before the next fiscal year [00024].
- 1901 October 18, 1901 – The Deputy Minister states that it is inadvisable to make grants for the present fiscal year. He notes that the man in charge of payment of Treaty in this district recommends that this school be given the same grant as is made to other schools in similar positions. The Deputy Minister says he will visit the following winter to determine average attendance [00026].
- 1901 October 23, 1901 – A document acknowledges application for a grant and notes that the application will be given consideration [00027].
- 1902 The school is recognized by the Government as a Boarding School and a per capita grant is provided by the Government for its operation [00079].
- 1902 At least by December 31, 1902 the Government is receiving Quarterly Returns from the St. John's Mission Boarding School at Wapuskaw [00028].
- 1903 The school is founded [ANGMSCC 87433].
- 1903 A major fire occurred at the school in November 1903, after which pupils were accommodated in the Church building [00077]. It appears that the Government did not aid financially in the rebuilding of the school apart from already established school grants [00082].
- 1904 A document states that the majority of students are boarders whose attendance is regular. There are also children of the traders who attend the day school regularly. Attendance of Indian children who attend as day pupils is not satisfactory, even in

the short time their parents live at the settlement. These families usually go off hunting in the winters [DIA AR, 1905, p. 3704].

- 1908 In May, 1908 the Medical Officer, J.D. Lafferty, reports that the school has not been free from cases of tuberculosis in the last ten years, and that there were eight or ten cases in 1908. He recommends closing the school [04179]. While the Government advises the Church that it intended to close the school, it is unclear whether this action was undertaken [04180].
- 1925 Financial relief is urgently requested by the Indian and Eskimo Commission [ANGMSCC 92911].
- 1926 The Government is of the opinion that three Anglican schools (Lesser Slave Lake⁵, Whitefish Lake and Wabasca) should be united in one institution; therefore it is unwilling to incur heavy expenditure for present repairs to the existing buildings, but would consider an application for the establishment of the new amalgamated institution during the 1927-28 fiscal year [ANGMSCC 92911].
- 1928 The Church does not want an amalgamation of the three schools, although agrees that if any amalgamation is to occur, it should to be confined to the Lesser Slave Lake and the Whitefish Lake schools [ANGMSCC 87165].
- 1929 The Bishop of the Athabaskan Diocese protests the proposed amalgamation of the three schools [ANGMSCC 92923].
- 1932 The school at Lesser Slave Lake closes and students are transferred to Whitefish Lake and Wabasca Schools [00207].
- 1935 Discussion of the need to build a school at Whitefish Lake in the 1935-37 fiscal year, which would unite the activities of the Whitefish Lake and Wabasca schools [ANGMSCC 84138].
- 1937 Discussion continues regarding amalgamating Whitefish Lake and Wabasca schools. The Church believes St. John's requires a new building with a capacity of 80 [ANGDC⁶ 81905].
- 1939 Wabasca is transferred from a "furlough" class of school to a "holiday" class of school [ANGMSCC 92119].
- 1941 The Government's proposal to replace Wabasca and Whitefish Lake schools with improved day schools is still protested. Further discussion with Government officials is requested [ANGMSCC 92961].

4 Documents cited with the prefix "DIA AR" are from the Department of Indian Affairs Annual Reports.

5 The Anglican school at Lesser Slave Lake is also known as St. Peter's IRS.

6 Documents cited with the prefix "ANGDC" are from the Anglican Diocese of Calgary document collection. These are not Crown-sourced documents.

- 1941 Due to a perceived health scare (infantile paralysis) the Provincial Government banned the opening of schools until September 22, 1941 [National Health Collection NPC-603396].
- 1941 – 1942 The Church wants the Government to build a new building with a capacity of 80 pupils. It requests an immediate increase in authorized pupilage from 35 to 40 [ANGMSCC 87161].
- 1945 January 1, 1945 – The main building is lost by fire. No lives were lost [03675]. The school is re-opened in temporary quarters and all children have returned [03684].
- Circa 1946 Discussion occurs regarding the possible closing/combining of schools, or of the Church withdrawing from co-operation with the Government. The Government has given a grant to add another unit at Wabasca [ANGMSCC 97437].
- 1947 There is a general shortage of workers around this time, as well as for previous years [ANGDC 81369].
- 1947 The Church complains of lack of money to properly run schools. It also complains of rules imposed by the Government and seeks adequate assistance, higher per capita grants and higher staff salaries [ANGDC 81369].
- 1947 The Church's Board of Management authorizes the sale of Wabasca to Government [ANGDC 81828E].
- 1947 July 1947 – The Church has continued to oppose the proposal to replace Whitefish Lake and Wabasca schools with one new building, and the plans have been dropped. The Church is concerned that the Anglican families at Wabasca will not send their children far from home to go to an Anglican school when there is a Roman Catholic school near by that could accommodate them. Currently the Government is providing a grant so that a new unit can be built at Wabasca. It is recommended that the Government be offered the school buildings at nominal figures so that the Church may be completely free from the responsibilities of ownership [ANGMSCC 92549].
- 1948 There is a continued shortage of staff [ANGDC 81356].
- 1948 February 21, 1948 – There are problems with the principal and because of this an "Acting- or Sub-Agent" has been placed at Wabasca to keep the peace. Mr. Gooderham requests to have the principal removed [ANGMSCC 85004]. In May the principal resigns at the request of the Church Administration [ANGMSCC 82727].
- 1948 April 29, 1948 – There is discussion within the Church regarding withdrawing from schools, including Wabasca [ANGMSCC 82731]. The Society notes that it does not want to withdraw from partnership with the Government in the management of Wabasca, although they note they cannot risk further deficit in 1948 [ANGMSCC 92595] The Church is concerned that when selling the schools

care must be taken to assure that the Government does not get control of all the land of all the buildings. At each school enough land, a residence for the Principal or Missionary, and the Church, ought to be retained for the use of Diocese [ANGMSCC 92626].

- 1949 By 1949 – With the construction of an up-to-date school for 60 pupils at Wabasca, - 20 more children than are in the area – and the erection of an Anglican Indian Day school, there is concern that the residential school might go out of business. There is discussion that the Administration might be forced to close Whitefish Lake Residential School and move its remaining pupilage of the new school at Wabasca to bring the Wabasca pupilage up to authorization. If this is done the new Wabasca School could operate in a financially satisfactory manner on receipts from per capita grants” [ANGDC 81905].
- 1949 A table notes that there is no record of Wabasca’s original cost to the Church, but that the Government’s most recent appraisal is \$13,737 [ANGDC 81348].
- 1949 Church administration notes that all schools are unable to reach full authorized pupilage for 1948, and notes that principals need to be searching and seeking out candidates for their schools [ANGMSCC 82763].
- 1950 February 1950 – The Principal’s retirement is approaching and Church has not received any applications for the post despite advertising and interviews. The Principal of this school is the only representative of the Anglican Church for hundreds of miles [ANGDC 81350].
- 1950 May 16, 1950 – The Government has cut original financial estimates that affect the planned work in Indian education. There is no longer a provision to purchase any Anglican residential schools, although sums of money connected with the purchase of Wabasca is included in the supplementary estimates [ANGMSCC 83539].
- 1950 November 20, 1950 – The Government has not yet arrived at a decision in respect to the purchase of Church-owned buildings [ANGMSCC 92678].
- 1950 December 11, 1950 – The Government gives approval for the dormitory to be used for public religious services [02315].
- 1951 Generally it is noted that there is a lowering of standards in the clothing and feeding of schools at the residential schools. This is attributed to the “penny pinching” policy the Superintendent has imposed upon the Principals [ANGMSCC 85017].
- 1951 June 1951 – The new Government building has been built on Church property. The Government is still using some of the Church buildings. The Church enquires about the Government purchasing or renting these buildings but has not had a reply [ANGMSCC 92729].

- 1951 Circa June 1951 – The Government is still considering the amount that might be allowed for the land and buildings owned by the Church, but requires further information thus delaying further consideration of purchase [ANGMSCC 92732].
- 1951 November 1951 – Negotiations are under way to sell Lots 1 and 2 Wabasca Settlement Plan currently held under M.S.C.C. title. The Government is purchasing the land and paying \$50.00 an acre for a 20.4 acre plot. An effort is being made, once again, to have the Government purchase some of the Church owned Wabasca buildings but to date no commitment has been made [ANGMSCC 82797].
- 1952 By April 1952 – The Government has purchased some buildings (\$5,150) and 20 acres of land (\$1,020). It is thought to be doubtful that the Government will finalize purchase of the remaining buildings at the school [ANGMSCC 87586].
- 1952 The Government purchases Lots 1 and 2 from the Missionary Society, and all building on this land, including a barn, boys’ residence, girls’ residence and a warehouse [03371]. Title was not transferred until 1956 [03359].
- 1954 September 1954 – All teachers in Government-owned residential schools become Government-paid personnel [ANGDC 81905].
- 1956 The Church administration’s greatest concern at this time is finding competent Anglican staff workers [ANGMSCC 84599].
- 1956 May 1956 – The Church approves that the Government pay the Anglican Residential School Clergy Principals’ salaries, provided the safeguards of the Church interests are assured [ANGMSCC 90775].
- 1956 December 1956 – The Principal is leaving and there is a severe staff shortage. There is no farmer, engineer, boys’ supervisor or cook. Once he leaves the only staff would be one white woman and four locally hired Indian helpers. No response has come from advertisements for workers. The Government is asked for help in the emergency, but there is no immediate offer; closure of the school is discussed. The Church Army supplies Captain Taylor to be Acting Principal, and two workers from Prince Albert School are transferred to Wabasca. A temporary Engineer is brought in (for one month) and two workers are hired from the Edmonton Diocese. After some reorganization by the Superintendent, the emergency is over. A Clergyman-Principal is still required and the administration is still unable to find an applicant [ANGMSCC 90809].
- 1958 January 1958 – There is a full staff at Wabasca and the emergency appears to be over [ANGMSCC 90606].
- 1960 May 1, 1960 – The school will adopt Phase One of the decentralized payment of account system [ANGMSCC 87126]. From May 1, 1960 onwards, Principals will be “wholly responsible for the purchasing of goods and payment of the same” [ANGMSCC 87126]. A cheque of \$1,000.00 is sent to each Principal to set up a

bank account in accordance with the decentralized plan for paying school accounts [ANGMSCC 87138].

- 1960 December 1960 – The Government has been asked if it is interested in having the soon-to-be-operating Northland School Division take over the operation of Indian schools in its general territory, including Wabasca [AR 03419].
- 1961 January 1961 – The Northland School Division comes into operation. Its district includes a number of formerly independent school districts from roughly north of Lesser Slave Lake and east of Fort Vermilion. The Northland School Division: 1 – “would take over the appointment, transfer, promotion, and if necessary dismissal, of the teaching staffs, and would look after all operating costs of the schools”; 2 – “Indian Affairs Branch would pay a proportionate cost of the operation of all schools in which Indian children are educated”; 3 – “respect the rights of all religious groups as Indian Affairs Branch does presently”; “is not interested in taking over the operation of residences for students” [AR 03419].
- 1961 June 1961 – The Government notes that with respect to the Northland School Division, it needs to study the Wabasca area very closely. It suggests that the St. John’s IRS will likely become the separate Protestant school for the area. The Government, in the initial phase, wants to have the Province take over the instructional portions of the school while the Government runs the residence as a hostel only [AR 02403].
- 1961 November 21, 1961 – Agreement with Alberta for the integrated junior high school education of Indian children. The Northland School Division, administered and financed by the Alberta Department of Education, proposes to construct a junior high school at Wabasca and is prepared to provide accommodation in this school for Indian pupils. The proposed school will accommodate 75 non-Indian and 75 Indian pupils. Until now Indian children from this area have been sent to Edmonton or other residential schools for high school education. This school will allow some children to attend high school as day pupils [National Treasury Board NPC-520761].
- 1962 An inspection dated March 20, 1962 notes that one classroom in the basement is rented temporarily to Northland School Division until the new school is completed [03090].
- 1962 March 1962 – It is hoped that in September 1962 students at the Wabasca Anglican School can attend St. Theresa’s, which is immediately adjacent. The present plan is to allow the Northland School Division to use the two classrooms on a temporary basis. It is proposed that approximately 40 children would be bussed from Reserve 166B to either the Desmarais or to the Wabasca (St. Theresa’s) School. Northland School Division has agreed verbally to provide transportation. Northland School Division has also agreed to accept these students into St. Theresa’s School in grades one to six [AR 04047].
- 1962 May 1962 – The Church had been assured by Northland that a Roman Catholic Sister would not be made Principal of the Junior High at Desmarais or the Public

School at Wabasca. The Church is concerned because despite this understanding, a Roman Catholic Sister has been made Principal of the Public School [01719].

- 1962 July 12, 1962 – The Government enters into agreement with the School Board of the Northland School District No. 61. This agreement provides the basis for any future agreement involving the integrated education of Indian children into Provincial schools. This agreement was to be in effect from June 1, 1962 [AR 01292].
- 1962 August 1962 - The majority of pupils attending public school in Wabasca are Roman Catholic, with an Anglican minority. Presently, the Anglican students have agreed to attend a non-denominational junior high school. Parents are not in favour of sending their children to the predominately Roman Catholic elementary school where the Principal is a Catholic Sister. The Anglican school will continue to operate until arrangements are made which are satisfactory to officials of the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches and to parents in the area [AR 03341].
- 1962 There are four schools in Wabasca-Desmarais: the Anglican Indian School for Indians and three Northland Schools (the Provincial Day School, St. Theresa School, and the Junior High School) [National Health Collection NPC-602939A].
- 1962 December 1962 – The Junior High School in Desmarais opens, and will take pupils for grades six to eight [01719].
- 1963 St. John’s has two classrooms of its own, covering grades one to six. Upper grades attend classes at the new Junior High School at Desmarais [ANGMSCC 84493].
- 1963 March 1963 – The Bishop of the Diocese of Athabasca supports the policy of integration although hopes classes at St. John’s will continue for one more year [AR 00429].
- 1964 June 24, 1964 – The Government advises the Bigstone Band Council that the Federal Government, and not the Provincial Government, is still responsible for the education of Indian children. The Council signs a resolution agreeing to let pupils from St. John’s IRS attend classes at St. Theresa Public School [LSL⁷ 00257].
- 1964 A “pre-employment” program is available at Mistassiny School, Desmarais. Residence is available at St. John’s Residence for students (Northland School Division) [AR 04701A].
- 1965 By 1965 – It has become apparent to the Government and Church that it is economically unrealistic to try to operate Schools or Hostels with an enrolment of less than 150 pupils. Because of this and other factors, negotiations are under way to close St. John’s School [ANGDC 81905].

7 Documents cited with the prefix “LSL” are from the Lesser Slave Lake District collection.

- 1965 Students attend school at St. John's Primary, St. Theresa's Elementary and Mistassiny Junior High School at Desmarais [ANGMSCC 84495].
- 1965 September 1, 1965 – Classroom instruction at St. John's is discontinued. All students at St. John's IRS were integrated into public schools. St. John's becomes a hostel facility [01513].
- 1965 November 1, 1965 – Authority is granted to lease two classrooms located at the Wabasca Indian Residential School to the Northland School Division No. 61 of the period of September 1, 1965 to June 30, 1966 for \$50 a month rent, payable to the Receiver General of Canada [LSL 00319].
- 1965 December 1965 – A memorandum notes that the Northland School Division has been using only one (and not two) classrooms in the Wabasca ACC Residential School building since September 1, 1965 [01225]. Another memorandum notes a "Memorandum of Agreement" covering the leasing of two classrooms at the Wabasca ACC Indian Residential School for the 1965 – 1966 academic year.
- 1965 – 1966 From the time St. John's became a residence-only facility until its closure in June 1966, the Church managed it [00990].
- 1966 May 1966 – Enrollment dropped from 65 residential and 5 day pupils in 1965 to 27 residential and 5 day pupils in 1966. The drop is due to the Government's efforts to complete roads to two of the adjoining reserves so children can bus to school each day. The bus is supplied by the Northland School Division No. 61, under whose supervision this district is governed. It is expected that the road to the north end of the lake will be finished this summer so the rest of our children can come to school by bus as of September [ANGMSCC 84515].
- 1966 September 1, 1966 – St. John's Residence is closed [01511].
- 1966 - 1968 Northland School Division leased and took over the operation of the buildings comprising Wabasca Anglican Residential School from July 1, 1966 to July 1, 1968 [03317; 01349A, 01359].
- 1967 Hostel facilities only [AR 10654].
- 1966 - 1968 From September 1, 1966 - Lease of a Government-owned building (Principal's residence) located on the property formerly known as the Wabasca Residential School to the Diocese of Athabasca for a period of two years at an annual rental of \$600 per annum. Under the lease the dwelling is to be used as a residence for the Missionary assigned to the area by the Anglican Church, and shall be used for no other purpose or purposes whatever [01207; National Treasury Board NPC-521670].
- 1968 Kee Wee Tin Nok Association used buildings from January 1968 for individual development and community organisation [01363B].
- 1969 Administration and control of the student hostel and associated lands was

transferred to the Province of Alberta, subject to the condition that the school and hostel be used for educational or community purposes [01149A].

1969 June 10, 1969 – The residence, located on Government land was transferred from Crown Canada to the Crown Alberta by Order-In-Council PC 1969-1169 (Lots 1, 2, and 8) [AR 00820].

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Dates managed by Church

1894 – 1965⁸ The Diocese of Athabasca (1894-1920's) and the Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada (M.S.C.C.) managed the educational and boarding services at St. John's IRS [01688; 00101; 01689].

To 1962 The Church (Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada) and the Principal were responsible for hiring and firing teaching and domestic staff at the school. The Principal was nominated by the Church and approved by the Government [01688].

1962 – 1965 The Church and the Principal were responsible for hiring domestic staff including engineers and farmers [00965; 01689].

1923 January 1, 1923 Administration transferred from the Diocese to the Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada. Transfer to the Society's control necessitated the creation of special authority for their administration: "The Indian and Eskimo Commission M.S.C.C." [ANGMSCC 85025].

Circa 1929 The Society changed the name of the commission to "The Indian Residential School Commission M.S.C.C." [ANGMSCC 85025].

Circa 1946 "The Indian and Eskimo Residential Commission" is disbanded and "The Indian School Administration" is founded [ANGMSCC 82754].

1965 – 1966 When St. John's became a residence-only facility until its closure in 1966, the Church managed the hostel [00990]. The Principal/Residence Administrator, as an employee of the Church was responsible for day to day operation of the school/residence.

Dates managed by Government

⁸ Anglican Documents indicate that "Prior to 1910 - Original 'Industrial Schools' and later 'Indian Residential Schools' [were] financed and operated by Canadian Anglican Dioceses with some grants, ie: Church Missionary Society of London, England." and that from "1910 - 1920 - Indian Residential Schools [were] owned and operated by Anglican Dioceses, assisted financially by Federal Government per capita grants." From "1920 - 1946 - All missionary and educational work among Indians was increasingly the responsibility of the M.S.C.C. under terms of the Agreement drawn up in 1920 between [the] M.S.C.C. and the Anglican Dioceses in Canada." [ANGDC 81905]

- 1934 The Government pays a per capita grant. The Government did not build the school and does not exercise the right of ownership [LSL 00047].
- By 1962 By 1962 the Government took over the employment of teachers at the residential school, however, domestic employees were still the responsibility of the Church [01689; 10001].

Dates taken over by province

- 1935 – 1940 The Province of Alberta paid a yearly grant for the teaching of non-treaty day students in the school [00631; 00639; 00643; 00648].
- 1958 A documents notes that the school received a grant from the Alberta provincial Government for day school meals [00662].
- 1962 – 1965 In 1962 and 1965 Northland School Division rented one classroom in the St. John's IRS classroom block [03090; 01225].
- 1966 – 1968 July 1, 1966 – July 31, 1968 – Northland School Division took over the operation of the buildings [03317; 01359].

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- 1894 The Church of England Mission is established at Wabasca and boards six pupils. The permanent Mission House is planned in the fall of 1894 [00023].
- 1895 The building is temporarily finished and includes “dwelling rooms, Indian Hall and school room” [00001].
- 1903 Buildings include:
 - Mission house (log building, 30 x 30 feet, two stories, accommodates missionary, his family, two ladies, a young man, 12 girls and 10 boys)
 - Church (main part is 17 x 22 feet with a chancel, 10 x 12 feet, which is used for Sunday or week-day services)
 - Study or office (log building, 12 x 14 feet, one and half stories, used by missionary as a study and office to meet people in, upper story is a bedroom for use if necessary)
 - Storehouse (23 x 15 feet, attached to the mission house)
 - Cattle-shed, horse-stable, pig-house, dog-yard, poultry-yard, fish-house and three closets (all log)
 - Logs being hewed for a building for the missionary, to increase school accommodation
[DIA AR, 1904, p. 389]
- 1903 A major fire occurs at the Mission house in November 12, 1903, after which pupils are accommodated in the Church building [00077]. Anglican Church authorities direct the Principal to build separate buildings for the mission and

school [00078]. It appears that the Government did not aid financially in the rebuilding of the school apart from already established school grants [00082].

1904

By July 1904 changes to existing buildings include:

- New house for the boarding school is under construction and is hoped to be completed by September. It is located 150 yards from the old site. The new log building is 33 x 24 feet with a kitchen 22 x 16 feet, is a story and half high, has a gothic window, large flat above and will accommodate 15 girls, 10 or 12 boys, and two ladies on staff.
- Logs have been drawn for the Missionary's new house.
- New storehouse has been built which is separate from the boarding school building.
- Church (church and chancel has been used for accommodation of the school children and two ladies, and was used during the week as a school room while the new building was being constructed.)
- Study or office (Missionary and his family are temporarily living here, and all cooking for the school children and staff has been done here.)

[DIA AR, 1905, P. 370]

1907

By April 1907 main buildings include:

- Mission house (residence of principal and family)
- House for the children and two ladies of the staff
- Church
- Storehouse
- Small building (formerly used as a study and office) – this and the storehouse have been moved and shingled
- Two stables
- Small house built for use as a widow's home (20 x 15 feet)

[DIA AR, 1908, p. 372]

1910

By March 1910 changes to buildings include:

- Horse stable built
- Cow stable moved to rear of horse stable and new roof added
- Storehouse built (16 x 20 feet)
- Storehouse altered (12 x 14 and turned into a workshop)

[DIA AR, 1911, p. 487]

1912

First mention of "hospital" (20 x 20 feet) [DIA AR, 1913, p. 437].

1912

A contract order is placed with the Hudson's Bay Company to proceed at once with the permanent enlargement of the premises, and designated a capital building to be used as a sanitarium or isolation hospital [00083].

1913

By March 1913 a new wing is nearly complete (25 x 30 feet). This, with the older portion of the building, will provide accommodation for 30 pupils and two ladies of the staff, a man and his wife [DIA AR, 1914, p. 587].

- 1920s-1940s Buildings are in a constant state of disrepair, in deplorable and dangerous condition and there are many requests for a new school to be built or to have the school closed. [00132, 1925; 00163, 1926; 00205A, 1929; 00232, 1931; 00073, 1933; 00270, 1934; LSL 04688, 1937; LSL 04610, 1943; National Health Collection NPC-621076, 1946]. Unhygienic and crowded conditions are associated with sickness, including Tuberculosis and some deaths [00295, 1935; LSL 04635, 1935].
- 1920 At least by 1920 the school has two classrooms [AR 05555].
- 1923 A building program hopes for a new school at Wabasca with increased capacity of enrolment within the next few years [ANGMSCC 90253].
- 1923 By March 1923 – A chimney fire in the kitchen results in damage to the kitchen roof [00104].
- 1924 The Government provides a grant for repairs [ANGMSCC 83022].
- 1926 An itemized list of repairs required making the school habitable for another year or two is provided [ANGMSCC 83001].
- 1927 The Church wants the Government to furnish during the year 1927 repairs to the main school building and the stable, and construction of a new implement shed and poultry house [ANGMSCC 90258]. The Government authorizes expenditure for the erection of “certain buildings and the effecting of certain repairs” [ANGMSCC 92911].
- 1930 A store room and Mission House are built [ANGMSCC 85025].
- 1932 The Government grants money for urgent temporary repairs until a new school can be provided [00207].
- 1934 A new classroom is being erected by the Principal and the Church [00075].
- 1934 A new school building is required to take the place of the one in use at present, which was built with Church money [ANGDC 81905].
- 1935 Conditions at the school are poor and the quota of 35 pupils is excessive as the school does not have accommodation for that amount [00295]
- 1937 February 2, 1937 – Several repairs have been made to the buildings but they are still unfit for habitation [LSL 04688].
- Circa 1938 Buildings have been purchased from the Revellion Brothers and this has improved conditions at the Mission [LSL 04713].
- 1941 – 1942 The Church wants the Government to build a new school building with a capacity of 80 in the fiscal year. The present building was built with Church money [ANGMSCC 87161].

- 1944 February 1944 – The school is in terrible condition and is a fire hazard. Conditions have improved with the purchase of the Revellion Brothers buildings. The large store building is used as a classroom with dormitories above for the older boys, and living quarters for the teacher. The Principal’s residence is a “splendid” building. There is also a smaller house for the farm instructor, a laundry building and a store room, and two other Revellion buildings are used for storage and manual training [03675].
- 1945 January 1, 1945 – The main building, an old log building, is lost by fire. No lives are lost [03675]. Remodeling and repairing of pre-existing buildings is undertaken [00656; ANGMSCC 84488]. School is reopened on January 17 using temporary quarters [03684].
- 1946 May 1946 – The main school has not yet been rebuilt. Seventeen girls are housed in crowded and unsanitary sleeping quarters over an old warehouse and a similar number of boys are housed over another building. There is a new log kitchen and dining room. All these buildings and the school room are separated by expanses of bare ground. It is recommended that on health grounds the school should be rebuilt and properly supported or else abandoned [National Health Collection NPC-621076].
- Circa 1946 The Government has provided a grant to add another unit at Wabasca [ANGMSCC 92549].
- 1947 The Government provides a grant so a new unit will be built at Wabasca [ANGMSCC 92549].
- 1948 - 1949 Materials for the new building are freighted in over the winter tractor road and await summer and the commencement of building [ANGDC 81356]. The new dormitory block built by the Government on Church property is completed by September 1949, but is not occupied until December 1, 1949. This building houses 60 pupils and will replace the temporary buildings formerly housing the school. Prior to the completion of this building, 16 buildings were used by the school. The new building is located at the north end of Lot 1 (MSCC title) and school buildings (Church owned) are still in use on Lot 10 (Diocese of Athabasca title) [02360; ANGDC 81344; ANGDC 81348; ANGMSCC 82766].
- 1949 November 1949 – The annual cost of fuel oil to operate the diesel-electric lighting unit at the new school is much more expensive than estimated and an agreement has been made to share the cost. It is noted that it is necessary to requisition Government in the next year for a new Principal’s residence as the current building is about a half a mile from the new structure [ANGDC 81351].
- 1950 February 28, 1950 –The school has one room [AR 00633].
- 1950 November 9, 1950 – The new Principal’s residence promised for the summer of 1950 was not constructed [ANGDC 81348].

- 1951 January 1951 – Some materials have arrived for the construction of the Principal's residence [ANGMSCC 84481].
- 1951 June 1951 – A new Government building has been built on Church property. The Government is still using some of the Church buildings. The Church enquires about the Government purchasing or renting these buildings but has not had a reply [ANGMSCC 92729].
- 1953 November 1953 - The Government-constructed new Principal's residence is complete and in use. In accord with a previous understanding, the old residence has been given to the use of the Diocese as the Bishop sees fit [ANGMSCC 87593]. For the past two years the Principal has had to live in the old mission house approximately half a mile from the school [ANGMSCC 87599].
- 1955 - 1956 Work is started in 1955 and completed in 1956 on an addition at the west end of the existing school building. The addition includes two classrooms, three staff rooms and a large play-basement. This brings the school activities within the one building. Prior to this, the classrooms were a quarter of a mile from the residence [01985; 01986; 01979; 02802; AR 03300B; ANGMSCC 84699]. A garage was also authorized as an extra to the contract [01952].
- 1956 March 1956 – Repairs are needed for the school lighting plant [AR 06150].
- 1958 Circa January 1958 – Supply and installation of diesel electric generating set and alterations to electrical distribution system are undertaken [AR 02746].
- 1958 February 27, 1958 - The root house is destroyed by fire [01822]. Funding is provided for repairs [01868].
- 1959 A duplex nurse and teacher's residence is constructed [02715A].
- 1959 – 1960 The water supply system is repaired and a sewage lagoon to service the school is constructed [02539; 02562]. The sewage lagoon is on Lot 10, owned by the Diocese of Athabasca, although easement was not obtained [03346].
- 1959 – 1965 The Government rents the Anglican Church for the use as a school chapel [02825, 1959; 02927, 1960; 02602, 1961; 02755, 1962; 01248, 1964; 01236B, 1965].
- 1960 December 1960 – It is suggested that consideration be made for the 1961 building program to include two prefabricated classrooms, full basement, and three bedroom teacherage. One classroom is urgently needed as eighty-one pupils are being accommodated in two classrooms. This addition would make four classrooms, one of which would be used for home economics and adult education [AR 02679].
- 1961 February 1961 – A document notes that the girls' dormitory is 23'4" x 31'8" (30 girls); boys' dormitory is 23'4" x 31'8" (23 boys) [AR 03933].

- 1961 February 1961 – The building program for 1962 – 1963 includes a two classrooms and a three-bedroom staff unit [AR 02664]. In June it is recommended that this building plan be deferred as plans are underway to integrate the Junior High School pupils into the Wabasca Public School [AR 07091].
- 1961 November 1961 – Approval is obtained for improvements to water system for fire protection [AR 03386]
- 1961 Provision in the Winter Works program is made for improvements to the plumbing system [AR 02614].
- 1963 November 1963 – A liquid level control is required for the pressure tank. It has been necessary to drain the storage tank which becomes water logged several times a week [AR 07740].
- 1965 – 1966 Wabasca is listed with one classroom [AR 03572].
- 1966 July 1966 – The square footage of the boys’ dormitory is 768 square feet and the girls’ dormitory is 768 square feet, for a total of 1536 square feet. Capacity, based on the calculation of 50 square feet per student, is 30. Average enrolment in 1965 was 42 [AR 02999].

LAND

St. John’s IRS is located within the Wabasca Settlement [02860] at the south-eastern end of Lake Wabasca [ANGMSCC 84491].

St. John’s IRS is within the Treaty 8 area.

St. John’s IRS is situated on Wabasca Lake five miles from the Roman Catholic School (St. Martin’s IRS) in Desmarais [00073].

St. John’s IRS is 230 miles north of Edmonton [ANGMSCC 84482].

- 1903 A 1903 description of the school’s location notes that Athabasca Landing, about 120 miles to the south of the school, is the nearest post office. The school and settlement are situated on the north bank of the large bay of Lake Wabiscow. The school is not located on a reserve. The land belonging to the school had never been surveyed or measured. The land comprises of a long narrow strip running back about three-quarters of a mile located between the Hudson’s Bay Company Trading Post and the Johnston Brothers Trading Post (later the Revillon Brothers Trading Post). There is a nice slope and the school is about 30 feet above the lake. The claim is for about 40 or 45 acres, about 12 of which have been cleared. The land is owned by the Church Missionary Society of England, and was a claim bought from an Indian who had cleared about an acre and had built two little houses. The land is rich and vegetables grow well, as well as grain, wheat, oats, barley and peas [DIA AR, 1904, p. 388-389].

Wabasca is an “isolated” school [ANGMSCC 84429A, p. 5]. Wabasca Settlement

is located at 56 degrees north and 113:50 degrees west. It is 100 miles or 4 days by wagon northeast of Lesser Slave Lake town. Wabasca is the main trading centre for over 700 people living in radius of 100 miles to the north and northeast. Wabasca is best reached by air [National Health Collection NPC-604148]. The road to Lesser Slave Lake is 90 miles and is only open in winter and after long dry spells in summer [Nation Health Collection NPC-621086b].

- 1894 – 1952 Titles of Lots 1 (11.6 acres), 2 (8.8 acres), 4 (2 acres) and 10 (37.6 acres) were held by the Church of England [03417].
- 1910 By March 1910, the adjacent property previously owned by the Johnston Brothers appears now to be owned by the Revillon Brothers [DIA AR, 1910, p. 487].
- 1937 The Field Secretary enquires about Lot 1 at Wabasca consisting of 11.6 acres which the Fur Trade Commissioner purchased from the Revillon Brothers, and enquires if it is for sale. The Church is interested in securing more land for the school [ANGMSCC 90377].
- 1937 August 27, 1937 – The Principal writes to the Indian Residential School Commission regarding a land survey and the future of the school and of the Wabasca reserves. He approves of the Indian Agent's plan to move Indians from all four Wabasca reserves to a recently surveyed section of land where they will be able to farm for a living. He discusses the importance for a strategic school location to ensure that the Indians associate with the Anglican rather than the Roman Catholic mission. The proposed area is close to the Roman Catholic school and the Principal notes that if the Indians move, the St. John's school's current location will not be strategic. Before any new school construction occurs, he suggests that careful consideration of location is required. The principal suggests that the new school be located on section 16 of the land which would mean that people would have to pass through their land to get to the Roman Catholic school; this might make the Roman Catholic Indians inclined to join the Anglicans. He expresses concern that the Indians may not be willing to move from the north end of the lake to the newly proposed area [ANGMSCC 90459].
- Circa 1938 The Revillon buildings have been purchased for use by the school [LSL 04713].
- 1938 Ten acres are farmed for the school [00639].
- 1940 The Church sanctions purchase of a piece of land at a cost of \$150 plus the cost of the Deed of Transfer, provision to be found with the Commission's appropriation for 1940 [ANGMSCC 92961].
- 1950 November – The Church is verbally informed that due to the Government's action in building a new school at Wabasca, it is doubtful if Government will purchase the Church owned buildings. The Government notes that the new building is constructed on the northern end of Lot 1 (M.S.C.C. title) and that school buildings (Church owned) are still in use on Lot 10 (Diocese of Athabasca title) [ANGMSCC 92669].

- 1950 The Church decides to sell a small piece of land (Lot 4, title 21-K-86) [ANGMSCC 82767]
- 1951 The new government building is erected on Church property [ANGMSCC 92729].
- 1951 November – Negotiations are under way to sell Lots 1 and 2, Wabasca Settlement Plan, currently held under Church title. The Government is purchasing the land and paying \$50.00 an acre for a 20.4 acre plot. It is recalled that in 1949 Indian Affairs Branch constructed a new Residential School Building at the Northern end of Lot 1. An effort is being made, once again, to have Indian Affairs purchase some of the Church’s Wabasca buildings but to date no definite commitment has been made [ANGMSCC 82797].
- 1952 The Government purchases the land and buildings comprising Lots 1 (11.60 acres) and 2 (8.80 acres) for \$6,170.00 [03371]. It is doubtful if Indian Affairs Branch will finalize purchase of the remaining buildings (including a barn, boys’ residence, girls’ residence and warehouse) at this school [ANGMSCC 87586]. Title is not transferred until 1956 [03367A; 03359].
- 1969 June 10, 1969 – The residence is located on Government land and is transferred from Crown Canada to Crown Alberta by Order-In-Council PC 1969-1169 (Lots 1, 2 & 8) June 10, 1969 [AR 00820].
- 1969 Administration and control of school lands is transferred to the Province of Alberta, Public Works subject to the condition that the school and hostel be used for educational or community purposes. [01149A] Administration and control of lands, Lots 1, 2 & 8, was transferred to the Province of Alberta [01167;] In 1971, there were plans to subdivide Lots 1, 2 and 8 to upgrade the standard of housing for Indian, Metis and low-income families in the Wabasca area [01176] In 1973, Alberta Housing Corporation held title to Lots 1, 2 and 8 [01149C].
- 1973 By 1973, Lot B is registered in the name of the Department of Municipal Affairs, Lot C (Pt. Lot 1, Wabasca Sett.) is registered in the name of the Synod of the Diocese of Athabasca, Lot D (Pt. Lot 1, Wabasca Sett.) is registered to the Department of Public Works [01154; 01157; 01153]

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

Item #	Date	Description
ANGMSCC 90152	Undated	Photo
01768	Undated	Sketch of buildings. Shows Church Property and Dept. Property. Features include: church, garage, root cellar, old school room (to be demolished for skating rink), Principal’s residence, res. School, P[Illegible] house, barn, old school room, old house, road, line fence.

01959	Undated	Sketch of layout of St. John's Mission. Features include: pump house, Indian Agent's house, new office to be built next year, minister's house, work shop, garage, new school, main building, power house, garage, church.
03678A	Undated	Sketch of "Rough plan of Wabasca buildings". Features include: store room, laundry, ice house, main building (with X through it), barn, farm instructor's cottage, barn, classroom/teacherage/boys' dormitory (former Revillion buildings), church, work shop, store warehouse, Principal's residence. Shows dimensions of buildings.
03686A	Undated	Sketch. (with dimensions) p. 1 – Attic (sewing room/clothing storage) p. 2 – Main floor (girls dormitories, junior boys dormitories, infirmary, staff room, pupils' reading room, hall, staff wash room, staff room, office, staff sitting room, porch. p. 3 – Basement (play room, folding doors, fuel, furnace room, passage, wash rooms, staff dining room, pantry, stairs, kitchen, dining room) p. 4 – End elevation. p. 5 – "Rough suggestions for St. John's, Wabasca main building". Front elevation.
04207C	Undated	Rough sketch of Wabasca area. Features include: North Wabaskaw Lake, South Wabaskaw Lake, Sandy Lake, distances in miles of lakes and distances between lakes, locations of reserves and numbers of Indians on and off reserves.
01534H	Undated	Sketch of rooms. p. 1 – second floor (sewing room, stairs, boys dorm, staff sitting room, M. Didemus, hall, boys sick room, bath room, wash room, boys playroom, office, staff bath room) p. 2 – third floor (stairs, girls room, wash room, bath room, girls play room, hall, girls sick room, Miss Hooper, Miss Hope, Miss Bunt, sewing room, Miss Grfulick, Mr. Meirs, staff bath room)
DIA AR, 1905 (Between p. 384 and p. 385)	Circa 1903	Photo of the school prior to fire. (Fire occurred November 1903)
02860	December 24, 1914	Wabasca settlement plan - from Legal Survey of Wabasca settlement. Shows North Wabiskaw Lake, Lots 1 – 16 and school in Lot 1.
03600B	February 17, 1942	Sketch drawing of Wabaskaw Lake (IMO North Wabaskaw Lake). Shows location of Church of England Mission, H.B.C. Post, Willow River, Sawridge Trail, Wabisca River, Indian Reserve No. 166B and Indian Reserve 166C.
03691A	1945	Plan entitled "St. John's (Anglican) School, Wabasca, Alta

		(Temporary Arrangements for Balance of 1945 School Year)". Features include: laundry, icehouse, clothing/storage, main building (destroyed), school room, new building (staff rooms, kitchen, dining room), staff/boys dormitory/boys playroom, warehouse, storeroom, girls' dormitory/playroom/staff room, Principal's residence/office/one staff room. Buildings show dimensions.
03007E	January 1948	p. 1 – ground plan of school (laundry, ice house, clothes stores, classroom, hen house, Limit B – dining – staff, implement shed, barn, church, boys super's room, boys home, residence, workshop, girls home, good stores. p. 3 – proposed plan for St. John's Residential school. (end and side elevations) p. 4 – basement plan (kitchen, staff dining room, food storage, hall, fuel stores, stairs, girls play room, boys play room, children's dining room) p. 5 – main floor plan (staff rooms (4), boys bath room, girls bath room, hall, stairs, staff bath, staff linen stores, 2 bed infirmary, office, staff living room) p. 6 – attic floor plan (hall, boys dormitory, stores, staff room (2), stairs)
03399	October 10, 1951	Plan of Wabasca settlement. Shows North Wabasca Lake and Lots 1 – 10. (Features include: new Gov't School Building, Barn, Residence Building (2), Warehouse) (Lot 1 – MSCC title 11.6 acres; Lot 2 – MSCC title 8.8 acres; Lot 4 – Former MSCC recently sold to Thomas Thunder for \$120. 2 acres; Lot 10 – Diocese of Athabasca title 37.6 acres)
01932	July 25, 1956	Plan for "Standard Two Classroom Indian Day School with Teachers Quarters and Recreation Space in Basement". p. 1 – front elevation p. 2 – left end elevation p. 3 – Interior (two classrooms)
02820B	March 1959	Plan for "Alterations to Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System" (includes school Principal residence, school, dormitory, garage, fence, church, cemetery)
01158G	Undated (IMO May 18, 1973)	p. 1 - Shows lots 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, C, B, D. (Lot C – Synod Diocese of Athabasca; Lot B – Nurse Station, Alberta Municipal Affairs; Lot D – Mission – Rec- School, Alberta Public Works, Lot 1 – Alberta Housing Corporation) p. 2 – Shows lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Blk. 2. (Lot 2 – Alberta Housing Corporation)

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

Year	Number of Students
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1894	6 pupils boarded
1895	7-8 students
1896	13 - Average
Yr. end June 30, 1901	22 – on roll; 12 – average attendance
Yr. end June 30, 1902	17 – on roll; 9 – average attendance
1902	15 pupils
Yr. end June 30, 1903	17 – on roll; 14 – average attendance
1903	23 pupils
Yr. end June 30, 1904	15 – on roll; 13 – average attendance
Yr. end June 30, 1905	14 – on roll; 12 – average attendance
1906	22-23 pupils
Yr. end June 30, 1906	16 – on roll; 9 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1907	11 – on roll; 7 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1908	14 – on roll; 8 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1909	27 – on roll; 26 – average attendance
1910	Allowed pupilage increased to 25
Yr. end March 31, 1910	21 – on roll; 18 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1911	19 – on roll; 15 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1912	18 – on roll; 15 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1913	18 – on roll; 12 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1914	12 – on roll; 7 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1915	13 – on roll; 8 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1916	17 – on roll; 11 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1917	23 – on roll; 20 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1918	31 – on roll; 24 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1919	33 – on roll; 19 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1920	19 – on roll; 15 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1921	17 – on roll; 12 – average attendance
1922	Capacity of enrollment – 25
Yr. end March 31, 1922	17 – on roll; 11 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1923	14 – on roll; 8 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1924	19 – on roll; 9 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1925	19 – on roll; 16 – average attendance
1926	19 pupils (also 5 half-breed children who will be taken to the RC school if our school cannot provide for them)
Yr. end March 31, 1926	19 – on roll; 18 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1927	20 – on roll; 18 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1928	21 – on roll; 19 – average attendance

Yr. end March 31, 1929	19 – on roll; 18 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1930	21 – on roll; 20 – average attendance
1931	Official capacity – 25
Yr. end March 31, 1931	18 – on roll; 17 – average attendance
1932	Allowed pupilage increased to 30 due to the closing of the Lesser Slave Lake School
Yr. end March 31, 1932	21 – on roll; 20 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1923	28 – on roll; 26 – average attendance
1934	Official capacity increased from 25 to 30
Yr. end March 31, 1934	32 – on roll; 30 – average attendance
1935	29 pupils
Yr. end March 31, 1935	32 – on roll; 30 – average attendance
1936	34.75 – average attendance; 35 - Capacity
Yr. end March 31, 1936	34 – on roll; 32 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1937	38 – on roll; 35 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1938	37 – on roll; 35 – average attendance
Yr. end March 31, 1939	30 – on roll; 35 – average attendance
1941	35 pupils
1944	35 pupils
1945	35 pupils
1946	35 pupils
1946	30 pupils
1947	37 – authorized pupilage; 33 – average attendance
1948	35 pupils
1949	35 pupils
1950	Authorized – 60; pupilage 41
1952	60 pupils
1953	50 pupils
1953	40 – in attendance; 60 - authorized
1953-1954	60 - authorized enrolment for Res. Indian Pupils – 60 (pupils registered during year: Indian Res. – 51; Indian Day – 0; Non-Ind. Res. – 0; Non-Ind. Day – 11; Total – 62)
1955	60 – authorized
1955	53 – average pupilage
1955	60 – authorized; 49.66 – average in December
1956	45 – average pupilage
1956	65 pupils
1956	60 – authorized; 54.32 – average in March
1956-57	63 – authorized

1958	66 pupils
1959	60 – authorized
1959	50 – average attendance
1960	46 – number of children under age 16
1961	Estimate: 53 – residential pupils; 32 day school pupils
1962	51 – residential pupils; 7 – day pupils
1962	58 – residential pupils; 7 – day pupils
1963	64 – residential pupils; 6 – day pupils
1963	147 – academic enrollment (grade 1 – 17; grade 2 – 42; grade 3 – 26; grade 4 – 21; grade 5 – 23; grade 6 – 18)
1964	55 – actual average pupilage
1964	4 – academic students (day basis); 18 – academic students (residential basis)
1964-65	22 pupils
1965	Less than 50 pupils in residence
1965	25 – estimated attendance
1965	60 – pupils in residence; 5 – day pupils (Attend St. John’s Primary, St. Theresa Elementary and Mistassiny Junior High School at Desmarais)
1965	65 – pupils in residence; 5 day pupils
1965	42 – average enrolment in residence
1965	42 pupils
1966	27 – pupils in residence; 5 – day pupils
1966	Nil

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

Students from, at least the following bands attended St. John’s IRS:

Bigstone Band (Jean Baptiste Reserve, Gambler Reserve, Wabasca Reserve) [AR 02374A]

1964 It appears that a few students from the Saddle Lake Agency attended St. John’s in 1964 [01414].

1965 All students are local except for one girl from Cardston and a girl and boy from Gleichen, and one girl and two boys from Spedden [ANGMSCC 84495].

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

The Synod of the Diocese of Athabaska (Anglican)

Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada (renamed in 1956 as: the Missionary Society of the Anglican Church of Canada)

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

- 1911 Agreement between His Majesty the King and Right Reverend George Holmes, D.D., D.C.L. Bishop of Athabaska [01688].
- 1962 Agreement between Her Majesty the Queen and the Missionary society of the Anglican Church of Canada [01689].

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Education

- 1903 For many years religious teachings were conducted in both English and Cree [DIA AR, 1904, p. 390].
- 1904 A report notes that no distinct industries are taught at the school at this time. Girls learn housework and knitting and boys are taught to care for the horses, cattle, pigs, and to work in the garden [DIA AR, 1905, p. 371].

Farm

- 1907 About 10 head of cattle are kept and one animal for beef is raised each year. About 400 pounds of butter were produced in the previous year [DIA AR, 1907, p. 372].
- 1912 A principal's report notes that there is a good garden which supplies the school with potatoes and vegetables [DIA AR, 1913, p. 557].
- 1924 A farm report shows that 20 tons of potatoes, over and above other vegetables, had been raised this year [ANGMSCC 83022].
- 1930 Minutes discuss the establishment of an experimental plot at Wabasca [ANGDC 81202].
- 1938 Farming operations at the school consist of 10 acres for growing green feed and a garden [00639].

- 1947 The Bishop notes that Wabasca is almost self-supporting because of the farm produce raised [ANGDC 81361].
- 1957 July 1957 – Farm operations are discontinued [00662].
- 1963 It is noted that St. John’s recently begun raising poultry with 550 birds eating the table scraps. It is hoped that by fall there will be a regular supply of fresh eggs as well as chicken for Sunday lunch [ANGMSCC 84493].

Principal/Missionary

Principals for Wabasca and Whitefish Lake Schools are the only clergy in the wide area of the Lesser Slave Lake country and are expected to conduct Missionary work as well as work with the schools [ANGMSCC 92508]. There is ongoing discussion of hiring Lay or Clerical Principals [ANGDC 81356]. When an ordained man can not be obtained, a layman is appointed [ANGMSCC 82775].

Health

- 1903 The Principal’s report notes that a boy and girl died of consumption [DIA AR, 1904, p. 390].
- 1905 – 1906 An attack of whooping cough in the school and neighbourhood during the winter “carried off” about 20 children of different ages [DIA AR, 1907, p. 411].
- 1907 The principal notes that there is no proper means of isolating the sick in case of contagious disease [DIA AR, 1908, p. 372].
- 1908 The Medical Officer reports that the school has never been free of cases of tuberculosis during the ten years previous, and that there were eight or ten cases in 1908 [04179].
- 1935 For several years the Government has maintained a Field Matron service. There is a small hospital at the Roman Catholic School. The Field Matron in the past has been provided by the Anglican Church, and the Government has paid the Church for her services. She lives and has her dispensary in a small Government residence near but not connected with the Anglican School property [National Health Collection NPC-603074].
- 1935 January 1935 – The Indian Agent notes that due to poor diet and building conditions the children appear “dull and sickly”. A medical report by the nurse notes that since the previous September a number of pupils at the school have contracted Tuberculosis. The nurse attributes this to the unsanitary condition of the old building. Deaths have also been reported during the last school term, and some Tubular cases had to be sent home [LSL 04635].
- 1935 The nurse has resigned and the Government is seeking a new nurse [National Health Collection NPC-603073]. The Anglican Church has hitherto found a nurse for the Indians at Wabasca, who number about 600 of whom one quarter belong to

that Church and three quarters to the Roman Catholic Church. Each of these Churches has a residential school and the Roman Catholic school in addition operates a small hospital as a part of this institution. The nurse lives near the Anglican School in a sort of residence–dispensary which belongs to the Government and is not in connection with the school. Before this residence existed, the nurse lived at the Anglican School, which is the reason why that church had the nomination [National Health Collection NPC-603072A].

- 1937 The Indian Agent reports that the children seem to be well fed, but do not look very healthy [00305].
- 1940 April 1940 – The nurse for Wabasca took a child stricken with appendicitis to hospital where the child died the following day [LSL 04761].
- 1942 The District Nurse at Wabasca reports that venereal diseases are spreading and patients refuse to take medication or cooperate. The problem is so severe that the young girls are infected even before they leave school. The nurse reports that some patients refuse to take treatment for Syphilis. The Government wants action taken to ensure that patients receive treatment [National Health Collection NPC-622863].
- 1946 A report notes that on health grounds, the school should be rebuilt and properly supported or else abandoned” [National Health Collection NPC-621076].
- 1948 – 1949 The Alberta Health Program Time Tables lists rebuilding or extensively repairing the nursing station at Wabasca [National Health Collection NPC-602951].
- 1949 April 1949 – A Government optometrist visits Wabasca and prescribes glasses for six pupils. No eye services have ever been done at Wabasca [National Health Collection NPC-620250; National Health Collection NPC-620251].
- 1953 November 1953 – Indian Health Services had arranged for a doctor, using his own plane, to come to Wabasca about once a month. In the spring of 1953 his plane was out of order and since then a Medical Officer from Camsell Hospital has been sent out on several occasions [National Health Collection NPC-622839].
- 1954 Circa March 1954 – The Government has received a letter from a Government regional nurse complaining of the Principal’s non-cooperation in the matter of having pupils X-rayed. The Church replies that it is unsatisfied with the nursing situation in the area and complains that the pupils are at the beck and call of the Roman Catholic school nurse without regard to the St. John’s school schedule and transportation issues [ANGMSCC 90548].
- 1954 August 1954 – There is a potential plan to have a “northern nurse” and a “southern nurse”. The southern nurse would be stationed at the Driftpile Nursing Station and would take charge of the reserves along the southern border of Lesser Slave Lake, including Joussard and Grouard and would make periodic trips into Wabasca [National Health Collection NPC-603056].

- 1954 The Church complains to the Government that pupils needing medical attention are required to be transported to the St. Martin's Hospital where they are discriminated against, and requests that medical examinations and x-rays in the future be done at the St. John's IRS [04208D] The Medical Officer suggests that a field nurse be stationed at Wabasca and agreed that x-ray stations would be set up at the Wabasca school in the future [04208B].
- 1955 January 1955 – An ophthalmologist, examines 50 pupils, finding 19 with refraction and recommended glasses for nine [National Health Collection NPC-620230].
- 1955 Circa November 1955 – A position is authorized for a nurse for the Lesser Slave Lake area, with headquarters at Driftpile. The nurse will make periodic trips and spend some time in the Wabasca area, with headquarters at the Anglican Residential School [National Health Collection NPC-603054].
- 1956 May 1956 – A doctor employed as a Ward Doctor at Charles Camsell Hospital since June 1953 has been making monthly trips to Wabasca where he holds medical and X-ray clinics. He also conducts medical surveys, inoculations and B.C.G. vaccinations for school children in Desmarais and Wabasca [National Health Collection NPC-602367].
- 1958 May 1958 – A doctor visits the school and determines that 15 children (25% of the authorized pupilage) require glasses [ANGMSCC 84272].
- 1958 August 1958 – Indian Health Services, when it can get a nurse, operates a visiting service in Wabasca. The Church states that a practical nurse would suffice as in emergency cases it is possible to call upon the Roman Catholic hospital facilities at Desmarais eight miles away [ANGMSCC 84273].
- 1958 1958 – 1960 The Public Health Nurse is married to a teacher at the school, and sees patients in a teacherage attached to the school [01876; 01528].
- 1959 A duplex nurse and teacher's residence is constructed [02715A].
- 1961 June 1961 – An ophthalmologist conducts 53 examinations, finding 14 refractions and recommending glasses for 7 pupils [National Health Collection NPC-620895d].
- 1962 Indian Health Services agrees to send a Medical Officer on the third Thursday of each month to hold clinics, as the Provincial Health Department is unable to provide this service. The Medical Officer is available to everyone and the schools, if time is available. A Dental Officer and a visit by an E.E.N.T. specialist is required [LSL 04034A].
- 1963 February 1963 – A Dietician visits and notes physical improvements in the kitchen since her last visit. She reports that meals are reasonably adequate except for vegetables and fruit, and gives advice on better dishwashing [AR 07544].

1965

Health of the children is good with the exception of one boy breaking his leg [ANGMSCC 84495].

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Reverend Charles Riley Weaver	Missionary and Principal	1896 – 1907
Mr. W.F. Broadstick	Principal	1908 – June 1911
Mr. Harris	Principal	1911
Reverend Charles Riley Weaver	Principal	1911 - 1913
Mr. W.A. Thorn	Principal	1912 – 1913
Mr. Philpot	Principal	1913
Mr. W.A. Thorn	Principal	1915
Reverend. W. Minshaw	Principal	1915
Mr. J. Palmer Morgan	Principal	1915
Ida E. Collins	Acting Principal	1915 – 1921
Reverend Alfred S. White	Principal	1917 – 1925
Mr. Miller	Vice-Principal	1923
Reverend F. Longmore	Acting Principal	1925 – 1928
Mr. George Arnold	Acting Principal	1928
Mr. F. Longmore	Principal	1929
Reverend S. Richardson	Acting Principal/Principal	1929 – 1932
Mr. E.P. Williston	Principal	1929
Mr. George Arnold	Acting Principal	1930
Mr. George Arnold	Acting Principal	June 1932
Reverend A.R. Marshall	Acting Principal	June 1932 – October 1932
Reverend J.M. Roe	Acting Principal	October 1932 – July 1933
Reverend K.L. Sandercock	Acting Principal/Principal	September 1933 – 1938
Reverend C.N. Middleton	Principal	1938 – 1942
Reverend A.L. Davies	Principal	1941 – 1950
Mr. C.E. Barnes	Acting Principal	1942
Mr. Eric Calrow	Acting Principal	1944 – 1945
Reverend A. Brown Christie	Principal	1947 – 1948
Mr. A.L. Davies	Principal	1947 – 1950
Mr. Aubrey Eric Godwin	Principal	1950 – 1956

Captain Clarence Edward Babcock	Acting Principal	December 26, 1956 – June 5, 1957
Mr. Lloyd George Comley	Principal	June 1, 1957 – at least September 1, 1957
Mr. Edward Perley Williston	Principal	1957 – August 16, 1961
Mr. Eric Luff Howland Barrington	Principal	September 1, 1961 – October 30, 1961
Mr. R. Martin	Principal	November 7, 1961 – November 19, 1961
Mr. D. Lawson	Principal	November 15, 1961 – July 1962
Mr. Rodney Archer Mayling	Principal	August 1, 1962 – December 2, 1962
Reverend Frederick Evan Glynn	Principal	December 26, 1962 – 1963
Mr. H.A. Reid	Principal	August 1, 1963 – 1964
Dr. J.W. Chalmers	Principal	1964
Mr. Reginald Harris Purdy	Principal	August 1964 - 1966

Narrative Completed: June 1, 2006

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



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UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA