

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



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**Yukon Hall SR  
School Narrative  
[03 24 2005]**

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

**NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS**

Yukon Hostel [YS003057] **1960-1970**  
Yukon Protestant Hostel [YS000343]  
Yukon Hall [YS003026]  
Yukon Hall Student Residence [YS004004A]

Whitehorse Student Residence [YS005159] **1970-1985**  
Yukon Hall [YS005136]  
Yukon Hall Student Residence [YS002398]  
Yukon Student Residence [YS003000]

**CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY**

- 1959            The Protestant Hostel to open in Whitehorse to be under the direct control of the Government and not a particular church organization [YS003055]
- c.1960           Children residing at the hostel to attend classes at the new Selkirk Street School where the Federal Government had a joint agreement with the Territorial Government and also provided financial assistance toward the building of the school [YS000333A]
- 1960            The hostel will be operated as a non-denominational Protestant institution admitting Protestant children. The hostel could hold 122 pupils. All staff are to be public servants [YS003057]
- 1960            The hostel is to provide accommodation for Protestant Indian children enabling them to attend non-Indian Territorial schools in Whitehorse [YS003058]
- 1960            Hostel to open in September 1960 housing grade 5 to 8 students [YS000361]
- 1960            First students accommodated at the Yukon Hostel in September 1960 [YS000314B]
- 1962            The teacher-counselor at the hostel was kept very busy with 87 boys and girls from grades 5 to 9 who attended Selkirk St. and Whitehorse schools [YS003066]
- c.1963           Student list by grade for the hostel recorded students attending Selkirk St. School, Whitehorse Elementary School, and F.D. Collins High School [YS003037]

- 1963 Possibility of amalgamating Yukon Hostel and Whitehorse Hostel suggested [YS003071]
- 1963 Indian Superintendent advised that non-Indian children would be admitted to Yukon Hostel and Whitehorse Hostel on the same basis as Indian students subject to the availability of space [YS004214]
- 1965 Children 14 to 18 years of age resided at the hostel [YS000457]
- 1965 The counseling services at Yukon Hostel is to be removed with the counseling to be consolidated in Whitehorse [YS003138]
- 1965 The position of teacher-counselor to be removed from the hostel September 1, 1965 [YS003136]
- 1965 Yukon Hostel to admit 14 male vocational training or male senior secondary students [YS003165]
- 1966 Students from grade 5 to 12 were housed at the hostel [YS003126C]
- 1967 The Yukon Government was responsible for the administration of the non-Indian children attending Yukon Hall [YS003703]
- 1968 In order to reduce enrolment at Carcross IRS, older students were transferred to Yukon Hall [YS000469]
- c. 1969 With the closure of Carcross IRS, the younger pupils were moved to the Whitehorse student residences [YS004083A]
- 1969 Yukon Hall housed 40 children aged 6-12 and 61 children over the age of 13 [YS004004B]
- c. 1970 Proposal that as of September 1, 1970, students would be divided between Coudert Residence and Yukon Hall by age. The likely dividing point to be age 12 [YS002570A]
- 1970 Students transferred from Lower Post Student Residence to the Whitehorse residences so their parents would be able to visit them more often [YS004162A]
- 1970 Yukon Hall and Coudert Residence to become one multi-denominational institution under a single administration effective September 1, 1970 [YS002552]
- 1970 Coudert Residence to house children from 6 to 12 years of age and Yukon Hall to house children 13 years of age and older [YS004083A]
- 1970 Yukon Hall and Coudert Residence were combined in September 1970 to form the Whitehorse Student Residence [YS005159]

- 1971 In September 1971, residents of the Whitehorse Student Residence were amalgamated and resided at Yukon Hall. Coudert Residence no longer housed students [YS005103]
- 1971 Amalgamation of the two hostels completed as all students resided in the former Yukon Hall with all kitchen, laundry, and janitorial services combined in the one building. Coudert Hall was being used to accommodate staff of the Whitehorse Student Residence [YS002862]
- 1971 The younger children, who had previously been housed at Coudert Hall, were being housed in the former staff quarters on the main floor of Yukon Hall. The staff were moved to Coudert Hall until their new quarters were complete [YH000128]
- 1973 Yukon Hall had Chaplaincy agreements with the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches. The hostel also had the services of the Baptist Church but no contract was in place [YH000099]
- 1984 Mention of possible closure of Yukon Hall as a student residence in relation to land claim discussions [YS005145]
- 1985 Yukon Hall ceased to operate as a student residence. Staff were notified of lay-offs effective June 30, 1985 [YS005141]
- 1986 The Government of the Yukon expressed interest in the hostel to use as part of the Yukon College [YS005134]

## **MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL**

### Dates managed by Church

No religious organization ever managed the hostel. However, the Anglican Church expressed interest in taking it over in 1966 [YS000290]

### Dates managed by Federal Government

- 1959 The new Protestant Hostel in Whitehorse to be under the direct control of the Government and not a particular church organization [YS003055]
- 1960 All personnel engaged to operate the hostel to be Federal Government employees [YS000361]
- 1970 The Federal Government was operating the Whitehorse hostels and was attempting to transfer control of the residences to the Yukon Government as soon as possible [YS002552]
- 1970 Yukon Hall and Coudert Residence were combined to form the Whitehorse Student Residence under the direction of the Government [YS005159]

- 1971 Provisions were made for appointed chaplaincy services which meant the Church would have no role in the administration of the new Whitehorse Student Residence [YS002438]
- 1971 The Federal Government's attempts to transfer the Whitehorse Student Residence to the Government of the Yukon had been unsuccessful. The Commissioner of the Yukon had not agreed to accept responsibility for the administration of the two residences [YS002438]
- 1984 Yukon Hall Student Residence listed as being operated by the Government [YS005142]

#### Yukon Government Involvement with the Whitehorse Student Residences

- 1967 The Yukon Government was responsible for the administration of the non-Indian children attending the Yukon Hall [YS003703]
- 1969 Statement from the Yukon Government, whereby they were to exercise complete control of all education, and education services for children of the Yukon encompassing all Yukon students [YS002580A]
- c.1969 Although the Yukon Government took over the administration of education of Indian children in the Yukon, the Federal Government still operated the two Whitehorse student residences [YS004004B]
- 1970 The Whitehorse hostels were operated by the Federal Government working in co-operation with the Yukon Government which provided integrated schooling for all Yukon students including Indians. The Federal Government was looking to transfer the administration of the Whitehorse hostels to the Yukon Government [YS002552]
- 1971 Attempts to transfer the administration of the Whitehorse Student Residence to the Yukon Government had been unsuccessful [YS005043A]
- c. 1972 The Yukon Government remained firm in their unwillingness to assume responsibility for the Whitehorse student residences [YH000131]
- 1986 The Yukon Government signed a licence agreement for the occupation of Yukon Hall [YS005136A]

#### SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- 1960 A Principal's residence, an Engineer's residence, and a skating rink were all constructed on the Yukon Hostel grounds [LP000456]
- 1960 The Anglican Church to use the auditorium at Yukon Hostel for Sunday School instruction and other weekday activities [YS000314B]

- 1963 A three car garage to be constructed at the hostel [YS001060]
- 1966 The Yukon Hostel scheduled to be converted from electricity to oil [YS009070]
- 1967 A detailed study of the cost of renovating Yukon Hall and Coudert Residence to accommodate two students per bedroom undertaken [YS004112]
- 1968 Renovations to Yukon Hall recommended by the Territorial Building Supervisor to cost approximately \$110,000 [YS005123]
- 1969 Proposed renovations to Yukon Hall to incorporate 2 students per room [YS004032]
- 1971 Proposed extension to the Yukon Hall building for staff accomodation [YS003000 & YS003000A]
- 1971 Minor renovations to be made at Yukon Hall and the staff wing to be converted to dormitory use [YS002877]
- 1973 Plans for garage and workshop at Yukon Hall prepared and forwarded to the Region [YS003515]
- 1973 Yukon Hall cottage type residence plans and specifications being modified for wood foundation [YS003516]
- 1974 Proposed projects at Yukon Hall for minor repairs and renovations, and for the completion of a garage [YS002398]
- 1974 Negotiations undertaken to repair damage caused by boiler explosion at Yukon Hall [YS003522 & YS003523]
- 1984 The Yukon Government still considering proposed cottage type residence plan for Yukon Hall [YS005144]
- 1986 The Yukon Government signed a licence agreement for the occupation of Yukon Hall [YS005136A]
- 1986 The Government of the Yukon plan to use the hostel as part of the Yukon College [YS005134]

## **LAND**

- c. 1960 The Yukon Protestant Hostel to open in September on the north-west side of Nisutlin Drive in Whitehorse across the road from the Whitehorse R.C. Hostel [YS000333A]
- 1960 The Yukon Hostel located about a mile from the town of Whitehorse [YS000343]

1970 The Whitehorse hostels were located facing one another on the extension of Lewes Boulevard in Riverdale, near the Yukon River [YS004083A]

1972 The hostel address recorded as 11 Nisutlin Dr., Whitehorse, Y.T. [YS005094]

### **PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA**

Item #	Date	Description
YH000191	Undated	Photograph of Yukon Hall
YS000160B	12/13/1961	Sketched blueprint of the main floor, dining room, kitchen, and storage area
YS004083A	08/18/1970	Picture of Yukon Hall in a newspaper article

### **GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME**

Year	Number of Students
1960	83
1961	87
1962	84
1963	122
1964	110
1965	116
1966	120
1967	99
1968	95
1969	105
1970	188 <sup>1</sup>
1971	160
1972	151
1973	131
1974	124

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that as a result of the administrative merger between Coudert Hall and Yukon Hall effective September 1970, this figure reflects the combined enrollment for both student residences.

1975	132
1976	109
1977	142
1978-1982	No documents recording student attendance located for this time period
1983	57
1984-1985	No documents recording student attendance located for this time period

### **STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES**

Students from, at least the following bands attended Yukon Hall SR:

Aishihik, Atlin-Teslin, Carcross, Carmacks, Champagne, Dawson, Ft.McPherson, Good Hope Lake, Kasaka, Kluane, Liard, Liard River, Loucheaux, Lower Post, Mayo, Mile 898, Old Crow, Pelly Crossing, Ross River, Selkirk, Soowahlie, Squanga Lake, Tahltan, Telegraph Creek, Teslin, Upper Liard, Whitehorse

There may be alternate ways of spelling these band names.

### **RELIGIOUS GROUPS**

Anglican Church [YS000314B]

Baptist Church [YS003057]

Roman Catholic Church (beginning September 1970) [YS001094]

1960            It was decided that no religious instruction would be given by the hostel staff. However, ministers of the Baptist or Anglican faith would be permitted to hold religious services at the school as long as it did not interfere with pupils' school work [YS003057]

1960            Anglican Church granted transportation of children for church attendance purposes in accordance with applicable rules [YS000314 & YS00314A]

1970            With the amalgamation of Coudert Hall and Yukon Hall, the hostel must pay Chaplaincy fees to both the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church [YS001094]



1973 Yukon Hall had Chaplaincy agreements with the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches. The hostel also had the services of the Baptist Church but no contract was in place [YH000099]

### **WRITTEN AGREEMENTS**

1968 Agreement between the Federal Government and Commissioner of the Yukon Territory. The agreement released the parties from all other previous agreements regarding the payments of tuition fees for Native children attending Territorial Schools [YS000795]

### **DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS**

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

#### **Incidents (Sexual)**

1970-71 Claude Frappier pleaded guilty to 13 counts of indecent assault and was sentenced to a term of imprisonment for five years on June 29, 1990. Frappier commenced his employment at Coudert Hall in September 1970. [YS000201]

Please note that Yukon Hall and Coudert Hall were administratively merged in September 1970. Both hostels remained open to students and the new institution was called Whitehorse Student Residence. In September 1971, Coudert Hall was closed to students and all students resided at Yukon Hall.

#### **Incidents (Physical)**

1960 A father of one of the students complained to Mr. Lee of the Yukon Hostel that his son had a badly swollen hand from a beating he had received from a staff member. F. Barnes, Acting Administrator, stated that no corporal punishment had been given since the hostel had opened [YS003151]

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

1960 A parent complained of poor diet and general mistreatment of three children residing at the hostel and requested they be sent home [YS003149]

1960 Problems in connection with the initial phase of the administration of the hostel reported. Problems regarding staff, runaways, and admissions and religious affiliations [YS000309]

- 1961 An inspection report of Yukon Hostel recorded many problems of staff administration [YH000027]
- 1961 A Health Inspection Report reflected an overall satisfactory rating for the hostel. Report found the students were not drinking adequate amounts of milk and that liver should be served. It also found that more citrus fruits should be served to increase the Vitamin C intake for the students [YS000160 & YS000160A]
- 1963 Yukon Hostel and Coudert Residence reported operating under capacity [YS000404]
- 1963 Many people reported sick at the hostel [YH000009]
- 1965 Some of the students residing at the hostel were paid to do extra tasks such as hair-cutting, skate sharpening, flooding the skating rink, and making school lunches. The funds raised were kept in a trust account by the administrator [YS000453]
- 1965 Hostel reported as operating at an excessive heat. A general lack of care was also reported at the hostel. Walls were scuffed, floors dirty, paper strewn about in locker rooms, washrooms were untidy and many had taps dripping, bathtubs were very dirty, and shower stalls had been damaged [YS003162]
- 1966 A report records a general lack of discipline at the Yukon Hostel. The Matron reported that students were commenting on and deliberately taunting the administrator. Older students were reported under the influence of alcohol and possessing alcohol in the hostel. The matron reported seeing a staff member in a state of great disturbance many times. An attack by a staff member on the administrator was confirmed [YS003126C]
- 1966 A student was physically punished by the administrator. The father of the student had requested that the child be physically punished if he disobeyed the hostel rules [YS003026]
- 1966 A boy complained he was being harassed by other boys in his dormitory room. The boy was moved to a different room but eventually ran away from the hostel [YS003027]
- 1966 A male student left the hostel on his own accord. He had previously commented on the poor quality of the food at the hostel [YS003028]
- 1967 Three female students caught drinking and sent home from the hostel [YS003191 & YS03192]
- 1967 A female student expelled from the hostel for repeatedly staying out past curfew [YS003194]
- 1972 Yukon Hall was overloaded with students for the school year beginning September 1972 [YS007230]

1982 Administrator instructed kitchen staff to submit weekly menus for his approval and to serve healthy evening snacks. Instructions were also sent to all staff stating students should be awoken in a “bright and cheerful manner” and should also be greeted in a similar manner when they enter the dining room [YS005149 & YS005150]

**PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS**

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Barnes, Findlay	Acting Administrator	07/00/1960 - 01/00/1961
Robson, Ivan B.	Administrator	01/00/1961 - 03/00/1966
Johnson, Keith W.	Administrator	03/00/1966 - 09/00/1973
Wenezeki, Larry B.	Administrator	09/00/1973 - 07/00/1975
Malcolm, Joe	Administrator	09/00/1975 - 09/00/1976
Wheeler, Dennis J.	Administrator	09/00/1976 - 06/00/1985

Narrative Completed: March 24, 2005

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



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