

Indian Affairs
School Files

(RG 10, Volume 6196)

File 464-1, part 1

Fort William Agency - Indian Residential
School - General Administration. 1894-1933

File 464-2, part 1

Fort William Agency - Indian Residential
School - Quarterly Returns. 1943-1952

File 464-5, part 1

Fort William Agency - Fort William Indian
Residential School - Building Maintenance -
Supplies - Accounts. 1895-1931

File 464-5, part 2

Fort William Agency - Fort William Indian
Residential School - Building Maintenance -
Accounts - Supplies - Plans - Building
Accounts. 1932-1949

File 464-10, part 1

Fort William Agency - Fort William Indian
Residential School - Admissions and
Discharges. 1939-1944

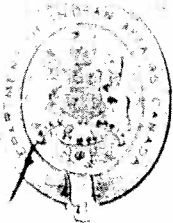
File 464-10, part 2

Fort William Agency - Fort William Indian
Residential School - Admissions and
Discharges. 1944-1952

File 464-23, part 1

Fort William Agency - Fort William (St.
Joseph) Residential School - Deaths.
1936-1940

153978-1



OTTAWA 20th March 1897

Nothing can be done this year. Schwabers are already printed

Schwabers

20th 97

MEMORANDUM

for the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs:-

Re extra provision for the Fort William Orphanage:-

The enclosed communication from the Sister Superior of the Fort William Orphanage is forwarded for the consideration of the Minister, and in connection therewith the undersigned begs to state that the Sisters at Fort William have a commodious new building with accommodation for 50 pupils. The Government makes a grant to this Institution of \$500 per annum. The school at Wikwemikong to which the Sister Superior refers is the only Roman Catholic institution receiving a per capita grant and is full to overflowing, and numerous applications have had to be refused. Were further provision made for the Orphanage a number of Roman Catholic children, who cannot be taken in at present, could be accommodated.

The Mount Elgin, Shingwauk and Wikwemikong schools each receive a per capita grant of \$60 per annum for each of 100 pupils, and the Mohawk is paid the same for 91 pupils.

H. C. ...

About four years ago the Sisters of St. Joseph put up a very commodious and well finished building with accommodation for 50 children to replace the old building which had been destroyed by fire. The cost of the new building was somewhere in the neighborhood of \$7000.00, to which the Fort William Indians contributed \$1000.00.

I see by the last published report of the Inspector of Public Charities for Ontario that this school received \$143.92 from the Ontario Government for the year of '98., although Mr Matthews states that there were then no white children at the school.

I know of my own knowledge that the white population of Port Arthur and Fort William think it a hardship that they have to contribute towards the support of Indian children at this school, which is conducted in connection with the Indian Mission at Fort William.

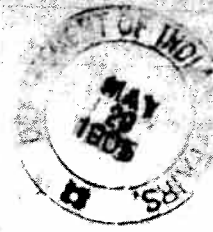
The sum contributed by the Government to this school amounts to only about \$20.00 per head while the Ontario rate is less than \$6.00, leaving \$40.00 or \$50.00 to be made up by outside contributions.

Martin Busser



15-38/5-1

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School

House of Commons

Ottawa

May 27, 1905.

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Frank Pedley Esq.,

Deputy Supt. Genl. Indian Affairs,

Ottawa.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to our conversation of this morning in reference to the boarding school for Indian children situated on the Indian reserve at Fort William:- You will remember that I had assumed that the school management had made application to your Department for a per capita grant and that they had stated their case. I was also of opinion that I had written the Department a few days previously.

Neither my communication nor any application from the school management appeared to be at hand, and you stated you would have the papers looked up. These documents may be found. In the meantime I am writing you lest my previous letter may not have been mailed or may have been mislaid in some other way.

In my discussion with you I had assumed the school was merely a boarding school. I did however state that I



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new there was some industrial instruction. I find upon looking over my correspondence that it is claimed that it is not only a boarding school, but an industrial school. Just what instruction is given I am unable at the present moment to state. I also find that the school management claim to have made application two years ago for a per capita grant and that nothing has as yet been definitely determined as regards the matter. I am also informed that Bishop O'Connor of Peterboro made an application on behalf of this school some time ago. That it has not been dealt with may be due to the fact that Mr. Sifton, who was then the Minister, has been absent a good deal this year. However, it is important that the matter be now dealt with.

When this school was started there were very few pupils and I am informed that a grant of \$500 per year was made by your Department and that at the time the management were satisfied with this sum. The school has been in existence for 25 years and has served a much felt want in



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that section of the country and rendered a very valuable public service. Circumstances have much changed in the last few years. There are not only several lines of steamers running to Fort William from Canadian ports, but also American lines of steamers, and there are now two railways traversing the country - in fact three railways, as the Port Arthur, Duluth & Western, though managed by the Canadian Northern, is a separate line, and there will soon be another line traversing another section of the country, viz.: the G.T.P., all of which makes communication much easier than heretofore. This is evidenced by the large increase in the number of pupils attending the school, which is now 6 or 7 times greater than formerly. Besides the price of everything has gone up. Food, clothing, boots and shoes and labor has increased; so that the \$500 is altogether inadequate for the support of the school and out of proportion with grants to other schools of a similar character. The average number of boarders in the school for many years has been from 35 to 40, sometimes 45. If the number of boarders be taken at 40



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Uawa

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and the \$500.00 divided by that number, it will give the sum of \$12.50 per capita for the 12 months maintenance, including board, instruction and the clothing of these children. There are two teachers whose salaries are fixed at \$500.00 each, but the Sisters receive nothing individually; so the teachers salaries are devoted to the maintenance of the children. The total inmates of the house, including the teachers, instructors, servants, &c., is about 60. To board and maintain this number of inmates is no small matter. The monthly bill for meats alone exceeds \$60.00. To maintain the school, the Sisters have had to resort to begging, but the present Superiorⁱⁿ has forbidden this to be done in future. These Sisters devote their entire life to the teaching and maintenance of the children and the schools, and have had to suffer much privation for the want of the necessary articles of life. Their endeavors deserve consideration. Last year two sisters died. The Superior, Mother Francis, died of pneumonia, which she contracted no doubt by the strenuous labors and anxiety she was forced to undergo and the cold



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Clawson

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which she suffered by reason of being unable to employ men to take care of the furnace and to do other necessary work. The other sister who died was Sister Matilda. She had been in the school sixteen years, and as she was the senior sister had to take charge after the death of Mother Francis. She had been ill previously for some time. She was the cook of the house, and had to act as Superior^{ess} of the school, and when there were some cases of typhoid fever in the school she had also to find time to nurse the sick children. These labors were too much for her strength and she contracted the disease and died after six days illness. Her life would no~~d~~ doubt have been spared if she had been able to hire nurses and servants to relieve her of part of the nursing and other work.

This School and its managers are certainly deserving of consideration. It would be too long a story to enumerate all the privations these Sisters have suffered in their endeavor to be able to keep all the children who



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Chaire

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make application for attendance. That it has been possible for them to do so is owing to the fact that the Fathers (Christian Brothers) until recently have been supplying ~~these~~ schools with milk, vegetables and fuel. Last year they supplied and delivered 125 cords of wood and over 350 bushels of potatoes, as well as other lines of vegetables in proportion. I understand that the Brothers will not be able to supply vegetables this year, and will not be able to supply the wood. If they are moved from their present lands, as is proposed, it will be some time before they can be again settled and producing in the same way. Besides there has been a change in the management, and it is thought that in future it will be impossible to get such assistance from these Brothers. It is therefore important that the management of the School should know definitely what the Department will do towards its maintenance.

This is the only accessible school within the reach of seven or eight bands of Indians, viz., the Fort William, Savanne, Népigon, Pays-Plat, Pie River, White



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Ottawa

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River, Long Lake and some other Bands that I cannot at the moment recall. All children, irrespective of religion, get the same attention and education.

I am in receipt of a communication from Rev Father R. E. Lamarche, S.J., Superintendent of the Mission, and Principal of the School, who points out the necessity of some definite assurance from the Department as to the per capita grant.

His Lordship, Bishop Scholard, of the diocese in which this school is situated, is very anxious that the matter be dealt with immediately, so that an appropriation might be taken in the next supplementary estimates to be brought down; otherwise there is likely to be great hardship and a good deal of confusion, ^{as} ~~and~~ the Sisters may be compelled to close the School. In view of the possible removal of the School it would seem that this is a matter that should have immediate attention, and I will esteem it a special favor if you will be kind enough to bring it to



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C. Halloway

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the immediate attention of the Minister, in order that
action may be taken during this session of Parliament.

Yours truly,

James Cousine

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this effect.

Most of our children actually in the School are deprived of their father or mother and some of both. The Sisters and the Fathers of the Mission have made great sacrifices to keep these poor children. And it is only by begging that we have been able to manage it. But there are so many collections going on every where, for Hospitals, Churches etc. that we have decided to abandon that way of supporting the School, and we do not see any other way of continuing the good work done for over thirty years than the per capita Grant that all the other Boarding Schools receive from the Government.

Your humble servant in Xst

Rev. P. C. Lamarche, S. J.,
Principal of the School.

The Secretary Department of Indian Affairs

Fort William Reserve, 18th, April, 1907.

The Secretary.

Department of Indian Affairs.

Ottawa.

Sub

Sir-

I have the honor to enclose herewith copy of a resolution and letter forwarded to Bishop O'Connor of Peterboro, regarding matters connected with the Convent of the Sisters of St Joseph, it is we understand possible that there will be no Convent erected upon the reserve and that the Sisters will withdraw entirely from us, in this event we would like the Department to protect us for the amount granted from the funds of the Band towards the erection of the convent also for the amount received from the sale of the property upon which the convent stands, we feel that in the event of the withdrawal of the Sisters that our money should be returned, but should they remain we will willingly consent to the money being used for the erection of another Convent, at a place upon the reserve decided on by the Band.

Signed by: Indians

*Andrew Banan
Alex Scott
Ammon Lyeth
Carl Bourne
John Lyeth
Frank Lyeth
Samuel Collier
Scott Gaudin
Harris Jean
John Lyeth
Francis Williams
John Lyeth
Harris Bourne
Moses McCoy
Peter Lyeth*

*Peter Frank
Vincent Louis
Alex. Crab
Johnny Christy
Simon Louis
Thomas Bourne
Johnny Gaudin
Ignace Libacomy
Francis Lyeth
Mitchell Lyeth
Philip Crab*

Your obedient servant.

*W. J. Lyeth
Indian Affairs
N.B. This letter shall
be sent to our chief
Henry Scott & Co
in care of Arthur Lyeth
M. J. Lyeth*

Ottawa, July 12, 1907.

The Deputy Superintendent General,-

Bishop Scollard, of North Bay, writes, saying that the Grand Trunk Railway Pacific Company will most likely take possession of the Fort William Orphanage immediately, and he suggests that he be allowed to send as many of the pupils as possible to the Wikwemikong Industrial School. They would have room there to accommodate all the pupils, and I consider that this is the best arrangement that could be made, and the Department could transfer the ~~grant~~ for the Orphanage to the Wikwemikong school for the number of pupils admitted.

I would recommend that Bishop Scollard be informed that his suggestion is approved of.

*Right as
Minister
of Grant*

*There is no objection
to the grant being
transferred*

Walter Benson

W. B. Benson

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See reply on no. 10 of
this file

Department of Indian Affairs.

Ottawa, Sept 27 19...

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Pupil

- No 13 Michel Deschamps, ^{is not} no 116 Fort Wm Band ^{no 102?}
- " 044 Jessie Deschamps, no 116 " " no 2?
- " 096 Frances Deschamps, no 116 " " no 2?
- " 49 Charles Ojoshkogiig, ^{Mother, wife of no 180 Ft William Band} give Band and number
- " 53 Francis Wasegijig, ^{son of wapooos, no 17 pay Plat Band} is not no 17 Pays Plat Band
- " 0120 Agnes " " ^{daughter of wapooos, no 17} Plat Band

~~060 Mary Rita Blammond, her father told us...~~

- " 093 Josephine Bellan is not no 44 Garden River Band ^{daughter of Mrs M. Collins no 184 Ft Wm Band}
- " 097 Jeannette Collins - Give Band & Band number
- " 0106 Frances Lafond - not given on Batchewana pay book
- " 0107 Emma Lafond " " Give proper Band & Band number for their pay book

~~NOT~~ 21 Joseph Fourangeau, 059 Mary Skeeliter, 092 Maggie Skeeliter, 098 Cynthia Bennett and 0114 Nancy Dine are stated to be non-treaty. State their parents names, both mother & father, and say whether ^{and all} Indians, halfbreeds or white and where they reside ^{any way the Commission should then make of}

ST. JOSEPH'S ORPHANAGE AND BOARDING SCHOOL

FORT WILLIAM

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

Paid Messrs. Murphy & Manion for 2 1/2 acres of land	\$ 3,500.00
Paid Messrs. Mathieu & Gussion, Contractors	22,159.01
Paid Superior Heating & Plumbing Co. for material and labour of plumbing	1,278.00
Paid Fort William Hardware Co. for Installation of hot water heating plant	2,440.00
Paid Hinners Jones Co. for Electric wiring and lamps	215.93
Paid Gurney Co. of Toronto for steel bake oven	117.27
Paid Messrs Angus & Halton for plans specifications and inspection of various works	741.54
Paid for Fencing of site, stables sheds and other outbuildings	1,250.00
	<hr/>
Total cost of School	\$21,801.85

I certify that the above is a correct report of amounts paid for building of Indian Boarding School.

Bishop of S.S. Marie.