

Indian Affairs  
School Files

(RG 10, Volume 6194)

File 463-1, part 1

Fort Frances Agency - Fort Frances Boarding  
School - General Administration - School  
Establishment. 1898-1934

File 463-2, part 1

Fort Frances Agency - Fort Frances Residential  
School - Quarterly Returns. 1941-1952

File 463-5, part 1


Fort Frances Agency - Fort Frances Residential  
School - Building Maintenance - Supplies -  
Accounts - General Administration. 1922-1929

File 463-5, part 2

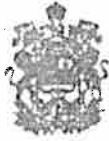
Fort Frances Agency - Fort Frances Residential  
School - Building Maintenance - Supplies -  
Accounts - General Administration. 1929-1931

File 463-5, part 3

Fort Frances Agency - Fort Frances Residential  
School - Building Maintenance - Supplies -  
Accounts - General Administration. 1932-1935

 File 463-5, part 4

Fort Frances Agency - Fort Frances Residential  
School - Building Maintenance (inc. Blue-line  
Print Disposal System) - Accounts - Supplies -  
General Administration. 1935-1938



124-1-5.

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
CANADA

April 30, 1936.

*L. W. [unclear]  
Z. Architect*

Memorandum:

MR. OPR, -

The Main Estimates for Indian Education for the fiscal year 1936-37 provide the sum of \$3,400.00 to install a sewage disposal system at the Fort Frances Indian Residential School. In this connection I would refer you to a preliminary report, prepared by Mr. Gow, Acting District Chief Engineer, Winnipeg, dated July 5, 1935. I would request that you make the necessary arrangements with the Dominion Water Power Branch to have this work proceeded with.

*J. Duthie*

*Approved  
[unclear]*

DBC/GO



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
CANADA

PLEASE REFER TO ONE SUBJECT IN A  
LETTER, AND IN YOUR REPLY QUOTE  
28960-M  
FILE NO.

DOMINION WATER POWER AND HYDROMETRIC BUREAU

WINNIPEG, MAN..

July 28, 1936.

Sir:

Re: Fort Frances Indian School.

I have for acknowledgment your letter of July 8th requesting that plans be prepared for a new sewage disposal system at the above mentioned school, also for an estimate of the cost and recommendations as to the best way of carrying out the work.

Since an amount of \$3,400. has been provided in this year's estimates for this work, we have assumed that the Department considers it advisable to provide for a sewage system with a disposal bed, as covered in our report of July, 1935.

In the short time at our disposal we have designed a complete disposal system and prepared detailed drawings covering the same. We are enclosing, in duplicate, prints of the following plans:

- I. Proposed Sewage Disposal System,
- II. Details of Septic Tank,
- III. Details of Disposal Bed,
- IV. Profile of Sewage Disposal System.

The proposed system provides for the passage of roof drainage, laundry and kitchen wastes to Rainy Lake direct and for the treatment of all other sewage by means of a septic tank and under-ground tile. Information is not available as to the drainage layout at the School so we are unable to show on plans what work is required to get laundry and kitchen drainage out of the building. It is our aim to use the outer portion of the existing drain into the lake if examination reveals the drain to be serviceable.

The septic tank is of standard construction but we are planning to utilize a motor-driven pump in place of the usual syphon in the syphon chamber. This is necessary in order to maintain the disposal bed at an elevation sufficiently above the high water level of Rainy Lake. This pumping unit will consist of a 50 gallons per minute pump driven by a 1 1/2 H.P. Motor and located within the septic tank. The pump will be automatically controlled by floats and switch, but we are making provision for an overflow pipe to the storm sewer.

The disposal bed presents no special features and involves no hauling of special material.

We have once more given consideration to the probable cost of the work outlined and are not prepared to lower our previous estimate, owing to unknown factors regarding the drainage system in the school and the extent of plumbing work necessary to segregate the kitchen and laundry wastes.

J. T. Johnston, Esq.,  
Director,  
Dominion Water Power and  
Hydrometric Bureau,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Indian Affairs. School Files.  
(RG 10, Volume 6194, File 463-5, part 3)

The contract for the work can be given to a reputable contractor, either on a cost plus 10% basis or on a cost basis plus a fixed amount of \$300.00 - the contractor to supply equipment and superintendence. This office should do the engineering work and supervise the work, having a representative on the job during the duration of the work - this representative not necessarily being a member of the staff. This representative will act as time-keeper and no orders for materials can be given without his authority. In this way the cost of the work can be materially reduced and this office can assume responsibility for the installation.

It will probably be advisable to submit the plans to the Ontario Department of Health for approval. That Department may possibly raise objection to the discharging of kitchen and laundry wastes directly into the lake. Such an attitude would be unreasonable in view of the fact that unrestricted contamination of Rainy lake is now permitted at saw mills, bathing beaches, summer homes, etc., on both sides of the International Boundary. Furthermore, both Fort Frances and International Falls are permitted to discharge immense quantities of raw sewage into Rainy river, contaminating the water supply from that river and also the waters of Lake of the Woods.

Your obedient servant,



D. B. Gow,

Acting District Chief Engineer.

Encls.



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
CANADA

INSPECTOR'S OFFICE

ED WINNIPEG, MAN. August 6th, 1936.

Dear Doctor McGill:

I recently inspected the Fort Frances Indian Residential School (R.C.) and beg to submit the following report in connection with certain requirements.

The root cellar in the barn collects water, no doubt largely due to the fact that there is no eave-troughing on either side of the barn. The Principal states his men can do the work if the material is supplied. The wall needs repairing and re-surfacing. It will require 35 or 40 bags of cement and a barrel of tar.

The water pump for the school is badly worn and past repairing. A new pump should be provided and installed before winter. A suitable pump will cost approximately \$275.00.

There is no chicken house or pig pen. The Rev. Father wishes to keep 100 hens and about 20 pigs. The pupils should be instructed and encouraged in this line of work and I would recommend that a building be erected, part for chickens and part for pigs. The cost of such a building should not exceed \$1200.

A request has also been made to finish the upstairs in one of the outbuildings as an isolation room. The downstairs is used by the Rev. Principal as an office. Such a room would be very useful and as the infirmary is small, I would recommend that \$200. be allowed for the purpose. This would supply the material and the staff could do the

Dr. Harold W. McGill,  
Deputy Superintendent General,  
Dept. of Indian Affairs,  
OTTAWA.

could do the work.

The residence now used by the engineer should be enlarged to accommodate the farming instructor. It will require about \$500. for material and the staff could no doubt do most of the work. At present the farmer lives in a rented house some distance away, which arrangement is most unsatisfactory.

I would suggest that the proposed disposal bed be left in abeyance as at present the septic tank works well and no odor can be detected. The money allowed for this work would more than supply the needs outlined above. I trust these matters will receive favourable consideration.

An early reply will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,



A. G. Hamilton  
Inspector of Indian Agencies  
Manitoba.

1. Report  
2. Schools

124-1-3  
DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
NOV 9 1936  
RECEIVED

EXTRACT from Report of Mr. A. G. Hamilton,  
Inspector of Indian Agencies, Winnipeg, Man.  
regarding his inspection of the Fort Frances  
Indian Residential School on October 21, 1936.

Original on File 124-1-6.

I would again point out the fact that there is no bathtub in the infirmary. This is very much needed and the expense should not exceed \$75.00.

The shower baths are not used as the galvanized floor is badly cracked. The floors should be renewed in all three rooms and will cost approximately \$25 for each, a total of \$75. The shower is ideal for the Indian child and I hope funds are available to do the necessary repairs.

The isolation ward is practically completed. It is upstairs in one of the outbuildings and will be a great help in case of sickness.

The Rev. Principal has carried out a large amount of repair work and on each visit I find many improvements.

The children are well fed. At present there are 12 cows milking and the milk is used for the pupils. The more delicate children receive special food, as well as a lunch during the morning and afternoon.

The Principal is anxious to obtain a pigpen and chicken house in order that he may not only supply extra food for the pupils, but also instruct and interest them in this line of industry. I trust that next year the buildings will be provided.

Indian Affairs. School Files.  
(RG 10, Volume 6194, File 463-5, part 3)

124-1-5

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
CANADA



FORT FRANCES, AGENCY,

APRIL, 20th, 1937,

No. 5-6.

*Handwritten signature*

Sir.

I have the honor to enclose herewith Requisition from the Principal of the Fort Frances Indian Residential School, in which he is requesting that the Department give him authority to purchase paint for the barn Sheds and roof of School, also authority to purchase lumber for a small igger and to enlarge the implement shed for a slaughter-house, which would cost the sum of \$280.00.

He is also requesting that you purchase 40 Single Desks for the larger children of the School, and four Backs and four Fronts,

The Desks are needed very badly, as these desks have been in this School since it was built, and getting in pretty bad shape, besides some of the children have outgrown the size of desks installed in the school,

If there is an operation for this school, I would recommend that they be given these few requests,

I have the honor to be,

Sir.

Your obedient servant,

*Handwritten signature*  
Indian Agent,

The Secretary,  
Dept. of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa, Ontario.



Ottawa, May 14th, 1937.

Gentlemen,-

With reference to your letter of the 10th instant, the Department accepts your quotation of \$309.76 for the desks required at the Fort Frances Indian Residential School.

Please ship the following desks in cherry color top:-

8 No. 2 single desks  
32 No. 3 " "  
4 No. 2 rears  
4 No. 3 fronts


The desks should be shipped to:-

A. Spencer, Esq.,  
Indian Agent,  
Fort Frances, Ont.

Your account, in triplicate, should also be forwarded to Mr. Spencer and, upon receipt of the desks, he will certify the account and forward same to the Department for payment.

Yours truly,

  
R. A. Hoey.  
Supt. of Welfare & Training.

  
Globe Furniture Co., Ltd.,  
Waterloo, Ontario.



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
CANADA

No.5-106,

Sir.

No.124-I-5,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 16th Inst;- In which you are inquiring about Poultry being kept at the Indian Residential School. And in reply to same. I have to report, that I visited the Fort Frances Indian Residential School, and I find that there are no Hens kept there and they have no Hen House in which to keep them, A few Years ago they had hens that stayed in the Barn, they were not a success and they disposed of them,

I would like to Recommend that a Hen House be built for the School, and a number of Hens be purchased to give them a start in poultry, and at the same time the Pupils be given instruction in the care of Poultry,

There is several Indians on the Reserves that have hens and are making a success of their poultry,

I have the honor to be,  
Sir.

Your obedient servant,

*W. J. G. G. G.*  
Indian Agent,

R. A. Hoey, Esq;-  
Supt. of Welfare & Training,  
Dept. of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa, Ontario.



FORT FRANCES, AGENCY,  
JULY, 30th, 1937,

C  
O  
P  
Y  
O N T A R I O

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Office of  
The Deputy Minister

Parliament Buildings,  
Toronto, Ontario,  
August 11, 1937.

Dr. R. E. Wodehouse,  
Deputy Minister, Department of  
Pensions and National Health,  
OTTAWA, ONTARIO.

Dear Doctor Wodehouse:

The attention of the Department has been repeatedly drawn to the failure on the part of the Department of Indian Affairs to ensure some satisfactory method of sewage disposal at the Fort Frances Indian Residential School. The situation is further complicated by the fact that the water supply for the school is taken from the bay on which the school is situated, at a point said to be about 1,000 feet distant from the point at which the sewage is discharged. This water is untreated. Sewage from the institution passes through a settling tank or septic tank and is discharged without further treatment into the bay at the point referred to.

Further, the point where the sewage is discharged is quite close to a summer colony, where bathing is very prevalent in the summer. The intake pipe for the Town of Fort Frances is also situated at a reasonable distance from the point of discharge.

The apparent attitude of the Department is that, in view of the fact that other agencies are discharging untreated waste into the bay, they should feel perfectly justified in doing so. A continuance of this practice is not likely to assist this Department in securing any change in the present system of sewage disposal in adjoining centres. However, the significant point is that the intimacy of the sewage outfall and the source of water and its proximity to the neighboring bathing beach, makes for a very serious potential health hazard.

The providing of appropriate treatment for this sewage is neither involved nor should it be costly. All that would appear to be required is a filter bed of field tiles, appropriately laid. This could probably be secured at a cost of \$400 or \$500. Might I ask if it would be possible for you to use your good offices in focussing the attention of the Department on this matter?

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) J. T. Phair  
(J.T. Phair, M.B., D.P.H.)  
Chief Medical Officer of Health.

JTP:LN

124-1-5

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION  
SERVICE



CANADA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
MINES AND RESOURCES  
SURVEYS AND ENGINEERING BRANCH

QUOTE FILE

HHA

OTTAWA December 30, 1937.



Memorandum:

Dr. McGill.

Re: Water Supply,  
Fort Frances Residential  
School, Ontario.

In connection with the above it would appear from the information on the file of the Indian Affairs Branch that the water supply for the above school is being taken from the bay on which the school is located at a distance of approximately one thousand feet from the point at which sewage is being discharged. While it is understood that the water used for domestic purposes at the school is boiled for the length of time required for sterilization it is suggested as an additional precaution that you arrange for samples of water to be taken periodically and analysed in order that a careful check can be made to see that the quality of water being used is satisfactory.

*J. J. Mills*

Dr. H.W. McGill,  
Director,  
Indian Affairs Branch,  
Department of Mines and Resources,  
Ottawa, Canada.

*1938-29  
Fort Frances  
Sewage disposal  
plans - H.W.*

H.Y.D.

Ottawa, January 5, 1938.

## MEMORANDUM:

Mr. Wardle

From time to time this Branch has received complaints regarding the sewage disposal system at the Fort Frances Indian Residential School.

For your information I may say that a report received in 1936 from the Acting District Chief Engineer of the Dominion Water Power and Hydrometric Bureau stated that unrestricted contamination of Rainy Lake is now permitted at saw mills, bathing beaches, summer homes, etc., on both sides of the International Boundary, and that both Fort Frances and International Falls are permitted to discharge immense quantities of raw sewage into Rainy River, contaminating the water supply from that river and also the waters of Lake of the Woods.

It is felt, however, that it would be advisable to make some improvements to the sewage disposal system at the Fort Frances Indian Residential School and an amount of \$1,400.00 for this purpose is being provided in our appropriation for the fiscal year 1938-39. The Fort Frances Indian Residential School is located three miles from the Town of Fort Frances, Ontario.

I would appreciate if you would arrange to have one of your engineers visit the Fort Frances School as soon as weather conditions permit next Spring and examine the sewage disposal system. When you receive his report, you might advise me, in order that we can decide if the amount provided in our appropriation will be sufficient to materially improve the condition of the sewage disposal system at this school.

T.R.L.M.  
En Director.

Address Reply to En-  
gineering and Construc-  
tion Service.

DEPARTMENT OF  
MINES AND RESOURCES  
Surveys and Engineering Branch

Ottawa, March 7, 1938.

MEMORANDUM:

Mr. Mills.

Re: Proposed Improvement to sewage  
disposal system, Fort Frances  
Indian Residential School,  
Ontario.

In connection with the above I beg to advise that I was requested, while with the Indian Affairs Branch, to examine this proposal as outlined in a report prepared by an engineer of the Winnipeg Office of the Dominion Water and Power Bureau dated July 28th, 1936. This report was submitted upon a request made by the Indian Affairs Branch in a letter dated July 6th, 1936, when an amount of \$3400.00 was being provided for in that year's estimates for the above mentioned sewerage work. This new sewage disposal system was taken into consideration on account of the representation made by the Ontario Department of Health that the present one was unsatisfactory and a source of pollution of the Rainy Lake where the effluent from the present cess pool was overflowing at times and discharging into the lake. However, the proposal in question was not given further consideration on account of a recommendation made in the report from Inspector A.G. Hamilton of Winnipeg dated August 6th, 1936, which stated that the present septic tank or cess pool was working satisfactorily, etc.

The Sanitary Engineering Division of the Department of Health was subsequently informed in a departmental letter from Indian Affairs Branch dated October 24th, 1936, that although consideration had been given, that year, to the installation of a new sewage disposal system for the above mentioned school it was finally decided not to proceed with the work in 1936 for the reason that unrestricted contamination of Rainy Lake was permitted at saw mills, bathing beaches, and summer homes on both sides of the international boundary as they were allowed to discharge immense quantities of raw sewage into Rainy River thus contaminating the water supply from that river and also the water of the Lake of the Woods as mentioned in a report from the Acting Chief Engineer of the Dominion Water and Power Bureau.

T.S. Mills, Esq.,  
Chief Engineer,  
Engineering and Construction Service,  
Surveys and Engineering Branch,  
Department of Mines and Resources,  
O t t a w a .

The question of making some improvements to the present disposal system serving the Fort Frances Indian Residential School was again considered in the memorandum of the Director of the Indian Affairs Branch to Mr. Wardle dated January 5th, 1938, this on account of the fact that an amount of \$1400.00 was being provided for in the 1938-39 estimates for the above mentioned purposes in which communication it was suggested that arrangements be made to have an engineer of this Branch examine the present sewage disposal system at that school in order that this Service be furnished with a report as to what improvement could be carried out with the amount above mentioned. The report applied for was furnished you on the 21st ultimo (Mr. Gow's report) and was since carefully examined. It is observed in this additional report that a new septic tank as first planned, but with some alterations, could be constructed at an estimated cost of \$850.00. It is further represented that the work as outlined which could be performed for the \$1400.00 is not of an immediate necessity as far as the operation of this institution is concerned but would prevent the discharge of raw sewage into the Rainy Lake.

In view of the fact that such new septic tank as that now suggested would not stop the pollution of Rainy Lake as desired by the Provincial Department of Health due to the discharge of sewage from this institution and that the work outlined with the expenditure of \$1400.00 would not fit in a complete disposal scheme should it be decided to construct a disposal bed as originally planned, would it not be advisable that no improvements be taken into consideration until sufficient funds are made available to cover the cost of an adequate and complete new system which would satisfy the requirements of the Provincial Health Department although it is represented that such a costly undertaking would not materially improve the condition of the water in Rainy Lake which is as previously mentioned already polluted from many other sources.

Respectfully submitted,

(sgd) J.D. Chene.



124-1-5

Ottawa,  
April 23, 1938.

Memorandum:

EX'D.

DEPUTY MINISTER

A request has been received for a new washing machine for the Fort Frances Indian Residential School. This school is situated near Fort Frances, Ontario, in the Electoral District of Kenora-Rainy River. The approximate cost of the new machine will be \$817.00. The Indian Agent points out that the present machine is practically worthless and that the new machine is required as soon as possible.

Funds for the purchase of this machine are available in our appropriation for the fiscal year 1938-39 and I would appreciate receiving the approval of the Honourable the Minister for this purchase. In the hope that he will approve I enclose purchase requisition which you can forward to the Purchasing Agent.

*[Handwritten signature]*

Director.

*[Handwritten initials]*

*[Handwritten notes]*

Indian Affairs. School Files.  
(RC 10, Volume 6194, File 463-5, part 3)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES