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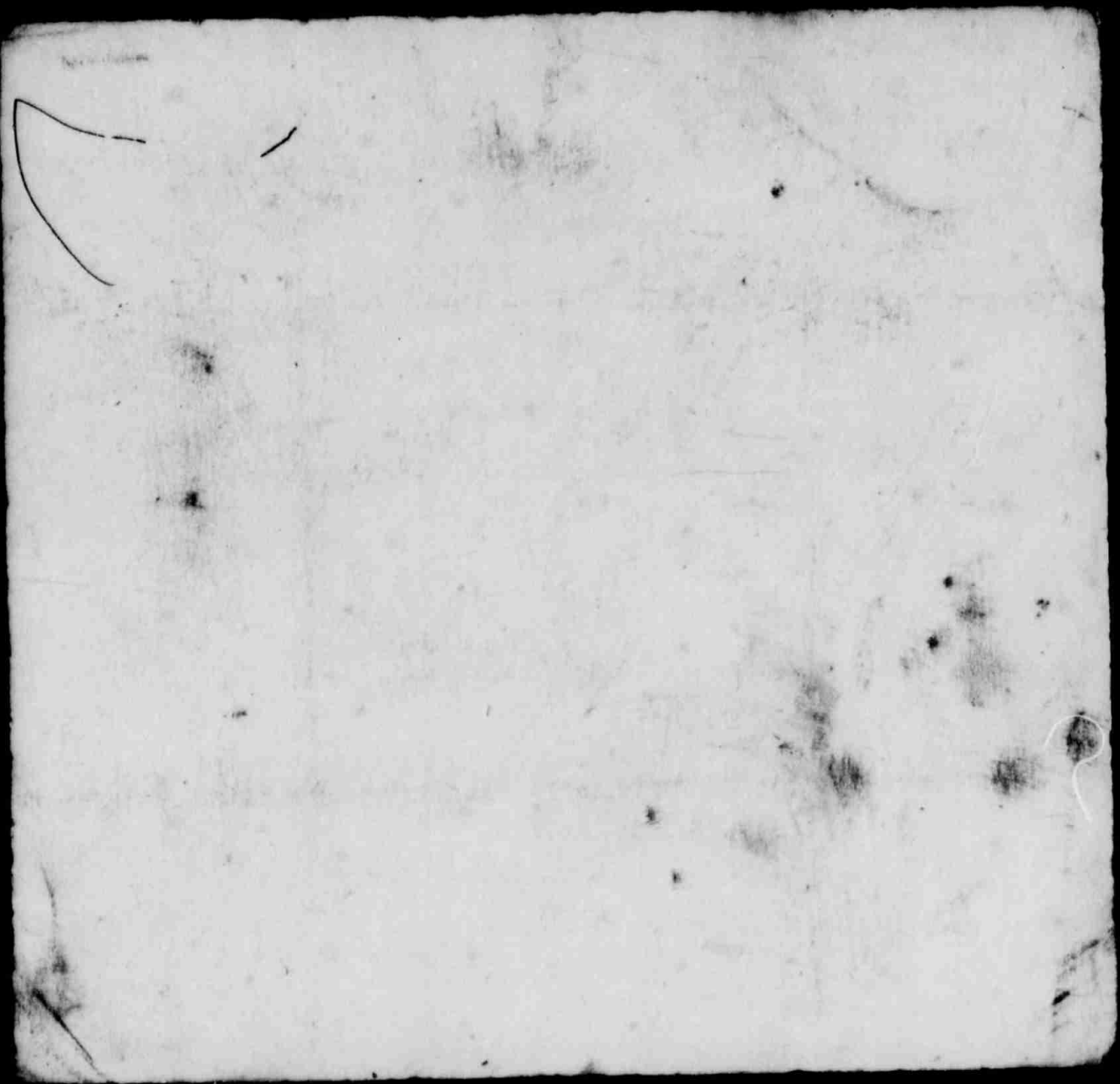
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Indian Affairs
School Files

(RG 10, Volume 6446)

File 881-10, part 9	Stuart Lake Agency - Lejac Residential School - Admissions & Discharges. 1949 - 1953
File 881-11, part 2	Stuart Lake Agency - Lejac Residential School - Vocational Training - Supplies - Accounts. 1936 - 1946
File 881-11, part 3	Stuart Lake Agency - Lejac Residential School - Vocational Training - Supplies - Accounts. 1946 - 1950
File 881-13, part 2	Stuart Lake Agency - Lejac Residential School - General Administration - Supplies - Accounts. 1936 - 1946
File 881-14, part 1	Stuart Lake Agency - Lejac Residential School - Livestock. 1925 - 1940
File 881-17, part 1	Stuart Lake Agency - Lejac Residential School - Cadet Corps Band. 1930
File 881-22, part 1	Stuart Lake Agency - Lejac Residential School - Pupils. 1945 - 1946
File 881-23, part 1	Stuart Lake Agency - Lejac Residential School - Death of Pupils. 9134 - 1950
File 882-1, part 2	Kamloops Agency - Kamloops Residential School - General Administration. 1915 - 1936
File 882-1, part 3	Kamloops Agency - Kamloops Residential School - General Administration. 1938 - 1950

881-23

NO. 163-1-23

Department of Indian Affairs

19.....

LE JAC RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

DEATH OF PUPILS.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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C. STATEMENT OF INDIAN AGENT

1. Having heard and read over the statements of the Principal and the Physician, do you consider that all essential circumstances relating to the death of Alphonsine Dominic

have been recorded? yes. If not, you are required to add here any further particulars which strike you as essential.

2. In this space record any recommendations which the Board consider should be made to the Department in relation to the health or safety of the pupils of this School.

Every possible attention given to this girl. I talked with the nursing Sister and saw her myself four days before she died. The father of the girl attended the inquiry.

Signed:- R.H. Moore,

Chairman—Indian Agent.



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Memorandum of an inquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of

ALPHONSINE DOMINIC, Pupil No. 0286.

of the LEJAC Indian Residential School at LEJAC, S.C.,

who died at Lejac Indian Res. School (place) on June 8th. 19 35.

INSTRUCTIONS

When a pupil of an Indian Residential School dies, the Principal is required to inform the Indian Agent at once.

On receipt of the Principal's notice the Indian Agent shall convene a Board of Inquiry, consisting of himself as Chairman, the Principal of the Residential School, and the Medical Officer who attended the deceased pupil. These members of the Board shall, in each other's presence, complete this memorandum, which shall then be forwarded to the Department of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, in one copy.

The Board of Inquiry shall, if at all practicable assemble within 48 hours of the pupil's death.

The parents or guardians of the deceased pupil shall be given notice of this inquiry and be permitted to attend it or to send a representative. They or their representative shall be asked if they wish to make a statement. In the event of their so wishing, their statement shall be attached to the report. The inquiry, however, shall not be delayed more than 72 hours after the time at which it would otherwise be held, to enable them to attend it.

If the Indian Agent is located at such a distance from the school as to make it impracticable for him to attend the Board, he shall request a responsible local resident to act for him. A suitable person for this duty would be a Justice of the Peace or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted or Provincial Police. A more or less permanent arrangement of this kind might be necessary in some cases. The Department is prepared to pay a reasonable fee for this duty, on the Agent's recommendation. The report of the Board, in any case, must reach the Department through the Indian Agent's office.

This inquiry is not designed to take the place of, or prevent, any other inquiry, including an inquest, which may be required by law.

If the pupil died as the result of an accident, the Indian Agent is required to take the statements of the witnesses of the accident, and attach them to this memorandum.

FORM NO. 414.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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A. STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

1. On what date did this pupil fall sick or suffer injury? Ailing from December 1934.
2. At what time of day?
3. When and to whom did he or she report this illness or accident? To nursing sister.
4. What means were taken to afford relief? Reported the case to the Doctor.
5. What medicines were used for this purpose and in what dose or quantity? Routine, treatment of T.B. case. cod liver oil, cough medicine and extra nourishment.
6. When was the doctor called? in attendance all along.
7. If the pupil was removed to hospital, at what time was this done and by what means of transport?
8. If the pupil was not removed to hospital, what measures were taken for his or her care at the school? infirmery at school off and on.
9. Add any other useful information here.
She would not eat for days. I gave her brandy water, sugar, cookies, she would eat some of them.

Signed:- L.H. Rivet, O.M.I.
Principal

Note: If the deceased pupil dies in hospital at a distance from the school, under the care of the physician or surgeon who attends him at the hospital, a clinical report of the patient's illness and death in the hospital is to be secured and attached to this memorandum.

B. STATEMENT OF THE PHYSICIAN WHO ATTENDED THE DECEASED PUPIL

I attended Alphonsine Dominic from Dec. 1st. 1934. to June 8th. 1935. The immediate cause of death was tubercular meningitis.

The contributory cause of death was pulmonary tuberculosis.

Do you consider that the Principal of the School, and the members of the School staff exercised reasonable care and judgment in regard to the illness and death of this pupil? yes.

Did they follow out your professional instructions? Yes.

If in either respect, you consider them to have been at fault, it is required that you express your carefully considered views as follows:

Every care was taken. I was notified regularly as to condition and progress.

Signed:- C. Pitts, M.D.

C. STATEMENT OF INDIAN AGENT

1. Having heard and read over the statements of the Principal and the Physician, do you consider that all essential circumstances relating to the death of Alphonsine
Dominick
have been recorded? Yes If not, you are required to add here any further particulars which strike you as essential.

2. In this space record any recommendations which the Board consider should be made to the Department in relation to the health or safety of the pupils of this School.

Every possible attention given to this girl. I talked with the Nursing Sister & saw her myself four days before she died. The Father of the Girl attended the inquiry

R. S. Jones
Chairman—Indian Agent.

New File

163-1-23



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Memorandum of an inquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of
ALPHONSINE DOMINICK, Pupil No. 0286
of the LEJAC Indian Residential School at LEJAC, B.C.,
who died at LEJAC INDIAN RES. SCHOOL (place) on JUNE THE 8th. 1935

INSTRUCTIONS

When a pupil of an Indian Residential School dies, the Principal is required to inform the Indian Agent at once.

On receipt of the Principal's notice the Indian Agent shall convene a Board of Inquiry, consisting of himself as Chairman, the Principal of the Residential School, and the Medical Officer who attended the deceased pupil. These members of the Board shall, in each other's presence, complete this memorandum, which shall then be forwarded to the Department of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, in one copy.

The Board of Inquiry shall, if at all practicable assemble within 48 hours of the pupil's death.

The parents or guardians of the deceased pupil shall be given notice of this inquiry and be permitted to attend it or to send a representative. They or their representative shall be asked if they wish to make a statement. In the event of their so wishing, their statement shall be attached to the report. The inquiry, however, shall not be delayed more than 72 hours after the time at which it would otherwise be held, to enable them to attend it.

If the Indian Agent is located at such a distance from the school as to make it impracticable for him to attend the Board, he shall request a responsible local resident to act for him. A suitable person for this duty would be a Justice of the Peace or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted or Provincial Police. A more or less permanent arrangement of this kind might be necessary in some cases. The Department is prepared to pay a reasonable fee for this duty, on the Agent's recommendation. The report of the Board, in any case, must reach the Department through the Indian Agent's office.

This inquiry is not designed to take the place of, or prevent, any other inquiry, including an inquest, which may be required by law

If the pupil died as the result of an accident, the Indian Agent is required to take the statements of the witnesses of the accident, and attach them to this memorandum.

FORM No. 414.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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A. STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

1. On what date did this pupil fall sick or suffer injury? *Sick from Dec. 1934*
2. At what time of day?
3. When and to whom did he or she report this illness or accident? *To Nursing Sister*
4. What means were taken to afford relief? *Reported the case to Sister*
5. What medicines were used for this purpose and in what dose or quantity? *Paracetamol
Ultra novum
Treatment for D.B. Case, Cod liver oil, Cough medicine &*
6. When was the doctor called? *In attendance all along*
7. If the pupil was removed to hospital, at what time was this done and by what means of transport?
8. If the pupil was not removed to hospital, what measures were taken for his or her care at the school? *Infirmary at school off & on*
9. Add any other useful information here.
*She would not eat for days
I gave her brandy, water, sugar
cocoa, she would eat something*

L. H. Rusk
Principal.

Note: If the deceased pupil dies in hospital at a distance from the school, under the care of the physician or surgeon who attends him at the hospital, a clinical report of the patient's illness and death in the hospital is to be secured and attached to this memorandum.

B. STATEMENT OF THE PHYSICIAN WHO ATTENDED THE DECEASED PUPIL

I attended *Alphonse Doring* from *Dec 1st, 1934*
to *June 8th, 1935*. The immediate cause of death was.....
Tubercula Meningitis
The contributory cause of death was.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Do you consider that the Principal of the School, and the members of the School staff exercised reasonable care and judgment in regard to the illness and death of this pupil? *Yes*
Did they follow out your professional instructions? *Yes*
If in either respect, you consider them to have been at fault, it is required that you express your carefully considered views as follows:

Every care was taken. I was notified regularly as to condition & progress.

G. Pitt M.D.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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163-1-23.

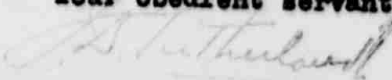
Ottawa, June 19, 1935.

Sir:

I have to acknowledge receipt of Form 414, regarding an enquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of pupil No. 0286, Alphonsine Dominick, of the Lejac Indian Residential School.

In this connection it is noted that every possible attention was given to this girl. Her death is regretted.

Your obedient servant,


J. D. Sutherland,
Acting Supt. of Indian Education.


R. H. Moore, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Vanderhoof, B.C.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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A. STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

1. On what date did this pupil fall sick or suffer injury? *About May 1935 the boy was noticed to be coughing in class.*
2. At what time of day? *but on being asked should not admit he looks ill.*
3. When and to whom did he or she report this illness or accident? *Dr. Pitt was advised early in May*
4. What means were taken to afford relief? *Special diet, reduced school hours & near rest.*
5. What medicines were used for this purpose and in what dose or quantity? *Cod Liver oil. Spoonful 3 times daily, & Iron tonic*
6. When was the doctor called? *Doctor called on weekly visit*
7. If the pupil was removed to hospital, at what time was this done and by what means of transport? *No Hospital treatment*
8. If the pupil was not removed to hospital, what measures were taken for his or her care at the school? *Special diet, reduced hours & rest.*
9. Add any other useful information here.

As soon as Alfred Wilson came to the school, I noticed that he did not want to play at all

L.H. Rowit D.M.S.
Principal.

Note: If the deceased pupil dies in hospital at a distance from the school, under the care of the physician or surgeon who attends him at the hospital, a clinical report of the patient's illness and death in the hospital is to be secured and attached to this memorandum.

B. STATEMENT OF THE PHYSICIAN WHO ATTENDED THE DECEASED PUPIL

I attended *Alfred Wilson* from *Dec. 1st, 1934*
to *June 17th, 1935*. The immediate cause of death was
acute pulmonary phthisis
The contributory cause of death was *chronic pulmonary T. B.*
(not an active case on admission)

Do you consider that the Principal of the School, and the members of the School staff exercised reasonable care and judgment in regard to the illness and death of this pupil? *Yes*

Did they follow out your professional instructions? *Yes*

If in either respect, you consider them to have been at fault, it is required that you express your carefully considered views as follows:

An admission was found to be suffering from chronic pulmonary T. B., not so acute as to justify refusing admission but was kept under observation. Did very well throughout the winter until May, 1935 when he began to fail. Was put on active diet & rest & kept until the end of the school term.

L. Pitt M.D.

C. STATEMENT OF INDIAN AGENT

1. Having heard and read over the statements of the Principal and the Physician, do you

consider that all essential circumstances relating to the death of Alfred Wilson

have been recorded? YES If not, you are required to add here any further particulars

which strike you as essential. It is a debateable question whether or not it might have been advisable to have discharged the pupil soon after admission, but the Doctor felt that he might have had a better chance of improving in health at school than at home, furthermore, the child would never admit that he was sick although it was apparent to the Principal and the nurse that he was not as lively or as energetic as he should be. Again, I may say that it was May 1935 before the boy showed any definite signs of falling in health but the Doctor said that on account of it being so near the end of the term that he did not deem it necessary to discharge him before the school closed for the annual holidays. I have however instructed both the Doctor and Nurse not to take chances in future should a pupil's health soon after admission become a matter of speculation as to what is the best thing to do. In the case of Active or open cases of T.B. immediate discharge.

2. In this space record any recommendations which the Board consider should be made to

the Department in relation to the health or safety of the pupils of this School.

I would strongly recommend that in future a strict examination (medical) be given every pupil in this school within a month or six weeks after the opening of the school each year at the end of the school holidays, or after admission should it take place other than at the beginning of the term. When this examination is made it should be properly recorded on a card or a suitable book for the purpose which would be kept in the school. This would also assist the Principal and nurse in case of occasional sickness among individual pupils during the school term. I might also say that this examination is to be made irrespective of the examinations given by the various doctors of the reserves from which the children come and which are recorded on the application for admission forms. The enquiry was held at the school and Indian Agent Mortimer was in attendance, as the deceased child was a member of his Agency. Mr. Mortimer informs me that both parents of this deceased pupil died some years ago from T.B. Should this recommendation meet with the approval of the Department I would respectfully request that they supply me with a book or cards which can be used for the examination as well as an outline of the examination to be given by the Medical Officer at the School.

[Signature]
Chairman - Indian Agent.



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Memorandum of an inquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of

Alfred Wilson, Pupil No. 325
of the Lejac Indian Residential School at Lejac;
who died at Bequidgati (place) on July 25th 1935.

INSTRUCTIONS

When a pupil of an Indian Residential School dies, the Principal is required to inform the Indian Agent at once.

On receipt of the Principal's notice the Indian Agent shall convene a Board of Inquiry, consisting of himself as Chairman, the Principal of the Residential School, and the Medical Officer who attended the deceased pupil. These members of the Board shall, in each other's presence, complete this memorandum, which shall then be forwarded to the Department of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, in one copy.

The Board of Inquiry shall, if at all practicable assemble within 48 hours of the pupil's death.

The parents or guardians of the deceased pupil shall be given notice of this inquiry and be permitted to attend it or to send a representative. They or their representative shall be asked if they wish to make a statement. In the event of their so wishing, their statement shall be attached to the report. The inquiry, however, shall not be delayed more than 72 hours after the time at which it would otherwise be held, to enable them to attend it.

If the Indian Agent is located at such a distance from the school as to make it impracticable for him to attend the Board, he shall request a responsible local resident to act for him. A suitable person for this duty would be a Justice of the Peace or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted or Provincial Police. A more or less permanent arrangement of this kind might be necessary in some cases. The Department is prepared to pay a reasonable fee for this duty, on the Agent's recommendation. The report of the Board, in any case, must reach the Department through the Indian Agent's office.

This inquiry is not designed to take the place of, or prevent, any other inquiry, including an inquest, which may be required by law.

If the pupil died as the result of an accident, the Indian Agent is required to take the statements of the witnesses of the accident, and attach them to this memorandum.

Form No. 414.

Indian Affairs. (RC 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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S-2-10-~~Personal~~.

Vanderhoof, B.C., October 18th. 1935.

Dear Doctor Pitts:-

It has been reported to me by the Rev. Principal of the Lejac Indian Residential School, that so far you have not given the pupils a general examination this term.

No doubt you will remember the conversation you, Doctor McQuarrie and I had a year ago and how we (Dr. McQuarrie and myself) tried to impress on you the importance of the medical work at the School. At that time you promised to give better service and we accepted that promise. Since then I am sorry to say that the necessary improvement has not taken place and neither the Department nor School authorities are quite satisfied that you are taking as much interest in the health of the children as you might.

Last year, for instance, no report was ever made by you on dental conditions of the children, and surely this is something that should have been done, so that we might have arranged to have a Dentist visit the School for a Clinic as in other years. Have you ever made an examination of the School children and kept a record of it on cards the same as you do for the white schools? I am afraid not, but hope you have.

I am writing this as a personal letter rather than official and hope to hear from you by return on these various matters . Surely you must realise that things cannot go on as they are, and this applies to the service you are giving on the Reserves as well as at the School.

Yours very truly,

Signed:- R.H.Moore,
Indian Agent.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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S-2-229.

Copy of this report and correspondence sent to Dr.
A.L. McQuarrie.



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

OFFICE OF
INDIAN AGENT

Vanderhoof, B.C., November 8th. 1935.

Sir:-

I would respectfully refer you to your letter of August 31st. last, File No. 163-1-10 relative to the death of Alfred Wilson who was, before his death, a pupil of the Lejac Indian Residential School. I might say in this connection that your letter was the first intimation I had that the boy was even sick, let alone dead, hence the reason for the inquiry not being held. When I did get your letter I found the Forms had not come, so I had to re-order them, the result was that the inquiry was not held until Wednesday last the 6th. inst. Form covering same duly completed and attached herewith.

Regarding the third paragraph of your letter, I spoke to the Rev. Principal on this advising him to have the Doctor see and examine in future any pupil who may show signs of sickness or ailing health and when T.B. is the cause their immediate discharge. I did not see the Doctor personally, as he happened to be out the times I called at Fraser Lake, so I wrote him a personal note, but I am sorry to say he did not take my remarks in the spirit in which they were given and wrote me rather a snappy letter. I am enclosing both letters for your information, as they will explain conditions more fully. For your information, I may say that the general medical examination I speak of in the first paragraph of my letter to Dr. Pitts has to do with the vaccination of new pupils and also a general check up on all the pupils after the holidays, as it is much easier to check them up at the School than on the reserves. You can also see that he expresses himself rather strongly about the Rev. Principal which is not conducive to good work or co-operation at the School, and seems to take exception to complaints from the School about his work reaching him through me.

Since this inquiry was held I am satisfied that the examination of the School children is much too casual, not only for the "Application for Admission" Forms but also during the time that they are at the School. It would appear as if 150 or 160 pupils are now examined in less than one hour, and that is one reason why I made the recommendation I did on the back page of the Inquiry Form, so that a thorough examination can be made and a record of it kept. In fact my hope is to have a complete medical history of every child at School and eventually every Indian in my Agency, but the School is where it could be started to the best advantage. As each child is discharged from the School his or her medical history sheet could be sent to the Agency Office for File and a copy made for the use of the Medical Officer in charge of the reserve on which the discharged pupil lives.

In closing allow me to say that Mr. Mortimer also attended the inquiry as the deceased pupil did not have either of his parents alive. I would like to be advised on these various matters at the convenience of the Department.

Your obedient servant,

R.H. Moore,
Indian Agent.

RIEM/L.

The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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Fraser Lake, B.C.,

October 22nd. 1935.

R.H. Moore, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Vanderhoof, B.C.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of October the 18th. received with complaints of attention I am giving the Indians. These complaints have been so frequent lately and so unjustified that I begin to believe they are promoted by personal feeling against me rather than an interest in the welfare of the Indians. This may be on your part but I prefer to think it comes from Rivet, for whom I have little use and who probably guesses that I feel so toward him.

Since my father is principal of an Indian School and I have had opportunity to meet the principals and medical attendants of other schools, I happen to know that the attention I am giving the Lejac School is as good or better than in any other place in the province. As for the general medical examination you speak of, this is not done in any other school that I have any knowledge of. This would bear no weight with me if I thought that any purpose would be served by doing so, but I do not think so. Where is the point of this, when I know that, were I to apply the standards of health to them that is applied to children of the white schools, that I should have to discharge 90% of them and there would be no school left; and when I know that they are under the constant observation of a staff who have the opportunity of reporting any ill health to me either on my weekly visit to the school or by phone. If the department makes this a regulation applying to all schools I have nothing to say, otherwise I shall use my own judgement.

As for dental work, anyone knows that there is always dental work in such an institution. I have asked for a dentist on two previous occasions and am surprised that the department does not arrange for an annual attendance of a dentist, rather than wait for the doctor to examine the whole school and tell them a dentist is required (which everyone knows). I am only too pleased to facilitate his work, when I know he is coming, by going over the children and picking out the ones who require work done.

In conclusion, I feel that I am doing everything that experience and commonsense dictates for the welfare of the children. If any more complaints emanate from the school through you I shall put it up to the department at Ottawa, giving them a statement of just how I am carrying on the work and let them decide whether it should be satisfactory or not.

Yours,

Signed:- C. Pitts, M.D.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

POOR COPY

S-2-229.

Copy of this report and correspondence sent to Dr.
A.L. McQuarrie.

163-1-23

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA



OFFICE OF
INDIAN AGENT

Vanderhoof, B.C., November 8th. 1935.

Sir:-

I would respectfully refer you to your letter of August 31st. last, File No. 163-1-10 relative to the death of Alfred Wilson who was, before his death, a pupil of the Lejac Indian Residential School. I might say in this connection that your letter was the first intimation I had that the boy was even sick, let alone dead, hence the reason for the inquiry not being held. When I did get your letter I found the Forms had not come, so I had to reorder them, the result was that the inquiry was not held until Wednesday last the 6th. inst. Form covering same duly completed and attached herewith.

Regarding the third paragraph of your letter, I spoke to the Rev. Principal on this advising him to have the Doctor see and examine in future any pupil who may show signs of sickness or ailing health and when T.B. is the cause their immediate discharge. I did not see the Doctor personally, as he happened to be out the times I called at Fraser Lake, so I wrote him a personal note, but I am sorry to say he did not take my remarks in the spirit in which they were given and wrote me rather a snappy letter. I am enclosing both letters for your information, as they will explain conditions more fully. For your information, I may say that the general medical examination I speak of in the first paragraph of my letter to Dr. Fitts has to do with the vaccination of new pupils and also a general check up on all the pupils after the holidays, as it is much easier to check them up at the School than on the reserves. You can also see that he expresses himself rather strongly about the Rev. Principal which is not conducive to good work or co-operation at the School, and seems to take exception to complaints from the School about his work reaching him through me.

Since this inquiry was held I am satisfied that the examination of the School children is much too casual, not only for the "Application for Admission" Forms but also during the time that they are at the School. It would appear as if 150 or 160 pupils are now examined in less than one hour, and that is one reason why I made the recommendation I did on the back page of the inquiry Form, so that a thorough examination can be made and a record of it kept. In fact my hope is to have a complete medical history of every child at School and eventually every Indian in my Agency, but the School is where it could be started to the best advantage. As each child is discharged from the School his or her medical history sheet could be sent to the Agency Office for File and a copy made for the use of the medical Officer in charge of the reserve on which the discharged pupil lives.

In closing allow me to say that Mr. Mortimer also attended the inquiry as the deceased pupil did not have either of his parents alive. I would like to be advised on these various matters at the convenience of the Department.

Your obedient servant,

R.H. Moore,
Indian Agent.

RHM/L.

The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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CANADA

OR-COPY

163-1-23

November 30th, 1935

Dear Sir:

My attention has been drawn to your letter of November 8th with which you enclosed correspondence with Doctor Pitts relating to his medical attendance at Fraser Lake Indian Residential School. I am enclosing a copy of a letter I am writing to him in which I have endeavoured to express the Department's point of view. Doctor McQuarrie will be visiting your Agency at some time in the not very distant future and I would advise you to show him this correspondence with a view, if you think it necessary at that time, to having him discuss these matters with Doctor Pitts.

With more particular reference to your letter I agree with you that the pupils should receive a thorough physical examination as soon as possible after they arrive at the school in the Fall. In a district such as yours I should think it inevitable that some children will arrive at the school who ought to be rejected at once. I think also if I had medical charge of such an institution I would wish to make a formal survey of the pupils about once in every month during the winter and to keep some record such as you speak of of the health progress. There is a difference between perfunctory attendance and active interest and I hope my letter to Doctor Pitts will convince him that the Department hopes he will display such interest in the future. Your report confirms that of Doctor McQuarrie after his last visit and I think you are well justified in taking Doctor Pitts to task. If I might comment further, it would be to hope

R. H. Moore, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Vanderhoof, B. C.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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CANADA

POOR-COPY

- 2 -

that you, Doctor Pitts and the Reverend Principal
might discuss these matters together at some early
date. Personal contact often works out better than
written communications.

Yours very truly,



Deputy Superintendent General

LM

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA**

R-COPY

Copy sent
to Mr. Indian Agent
Moore

163- 1-23

November 30th, 1935

Dear Sir:

GH

Mr. R. H. Moore, the Indian Agent at Vanderhoof has sent the Department a copy of his letter to you of October 18th and your reply to him of the 22nd of the same month, in which letters are discussed some matters relating to medical services at the Fraser Lake Indian Residential School. I think you might have taken a somewhat more cordial attitude toward Mr. Moore in this matter. He is responsible for, and interested in, the welfare of the pupils of the school and while it may be that the Department is unable to provide all the services which might be desired, there still remains a good deal which depends upon the active interest of the attending physician. In this connection I recall that neither Doctor McQuarrie or Doctor Wall were very well satisfied with health conditions at the school. They spoke in their reports of having discussed the matter with you rather seriously and expressed the belief that there would be an improvement.

I do not wish in this letter to say anything which might lead to further disagreement between you and Mr. Moore. I may, however, point out that the Department holds him responsible in all matters affecting the welfare of the Indians in his Agency, and as medical employees of the Department go, you are paid a rather fair salary for attending the Indians under your care. The most important group of these Indians is the residents of the school, and I hope you will do everything possible to

C. Pitts, Esq., M. D.,
Fraser Lake,
B. C.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

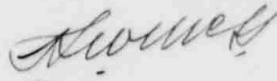
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CANADA

POOR-COPY

- 2 -

promote their health. I think also that if you were to re-read your letter to Mr. Moore, you might now consider it could have been made somewhat more courteous.

Yours very truly,



Deputy Superintendent General

LM

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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R-COPY

163-1-23

File is made.
[Handwritten signature]



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Memorandum of an inquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of
Euphrasia Louis Pupil No. 0303
of the Lejac Indian Residential School at Lejac, B.C.,
who died at Lejac, Res. School (place) on November 20th. 1935
Inquiry held at School November 21st. 1935.

INSTRUCTIONS

When a pupil of an Indian Residential School dies, the Principal is required to inform the Indian Agent at once.

On receipt of the Principal's notice the Indian Agent shall convene a Board of Inquiry, consisting of himself as Chairman, the Principal of the Residential School, and the Medical Officer who attended the deceased pupil. These members of the Board shall, in each other's presence, complete this memorandum, which shall then be forwarded to the Department of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, in one copy.

The Board of Inquiry shall, if at all practicable assemble within 48 hours of the pupil's death.

The parents or guardians of the deceased pupil shall be given notice of this inquiry and be permitted to attend it or to send a representative. They or their representative shall be asked if they wish to make a statement. In the event of their so wishing, their statement shall be attached to the report. The inquiry, however, shall not be delayed more than 72 hours after the time at which it would otherwise be held, to enable them to attend it.

If the Indian Agent is located at such a distance from the school as to make it impracticable for him to attend the Board, he shall request a responsible local resident to act for him. A suitable person for this duty would be a Justice of the Peace or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted or Provincial Police. A more or less permanent arrangement of this kind might be necessary in some cases. The Department is prepared to pay a reasonable fee for this duty, on the Agent's recommendation. The report of the Board, in any case, must reach the Department through the Indian Agent's office.

This inquiry is not designed to take the place of, or prevent, any other inquiry, including an inquest, which may be required by law.

If the pupil died as the result of an accident, the Indian Agent is required to take the statements of the witnesses of the accident, and attach them to this memorandum.

FORM NO. 414.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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COPI

A. STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE RESIDENTIAL
SCHOOL

1. On what date did this pupil fall sick or suffer injury? *In Nov. 13th*
2. At what time of day? *At noon of the 13th*
3. When and to whom did he or she report this illness or accident? *Dr. Pitts*
reported to me
4. What means were taken to afford relief? *Dr. Pitts her under special*
care
5. What medicines were used for this purpose and in what dose or quantity?
T. B. treatment, special diet
6. When was the doctor called? *Daily attendance*
7. If the pupil was removed to hospital, at what time was this done and by what means of trans-
port? *No, but put into the infirmary*
8. If the pupil was not removed to hospital, what measures were taken for his or her care at the
school? *Special nurse looked after her*
9. Add any other useful information here.

The Dr. Pitts told me on Nov. 13th
to send her home, but on Nov.
16th, she got measles, and though
being fairly well on Nov. 18th
she died on Nov. 20th at 4.45 A.M.

L. H. Rivet o.m.i.

Principal.

Parents notified to come at once
if possible, communications very difficult

NOTE: If the deceased pupil dies in hospital at a distance from the school, under the care of the physician or surgeon who attends him at the hospital, a clinical report of the patient's illness and death in the hospital is to be secured and attached to this memorandum.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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OR-COPY

B. STATEMENT OF THE PHYSICIAN WHO ATTENDED
THE DECEASED PUPIL

I attended Euphrasia Lewis from Nov. 13th, 1935
to Nov. 19th, 1935. The immediate cause of death was.....

Measles.....

The contributory cause of death was Pulmonary T. B......

Do you consider that the Principal of the School, and the members of the School staff exercised reasonable care and judgment in regard to the illness and death of this pupil? Yes.....

Did they follow out your professional instructions? Yes.....

If in either respect, you consider them to have been at fault, it is required that you express your carefully considered views as follows:

No fault to find. T. B. infection recognized + the case kept under observation. When it was considered that attendance at school was detrimental to her health it was recommended to Agent R. H. Moore that she be discharged (Nov. 13th). Unfortunately she developed measles which made discharge impossible. She died on Nov 19th.

S. Pitts M.D.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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CANADA

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C. STATEMENT OF INDIAN AGENT

1. Having heard and read over the statements of the Principal and the Physician, do you consider that all essential circumstances relating to the death of Euphrasia Louis of Cheslatta I.R.No.3. Pupil of Lejac Indian Res. School.

have been recorded? Yes. If not, you are required to add here any further particulars

which strike you as essential. For the information of the Department I beg to refer you to my letter of the 15th. inst. File No. S-2-260 with a copy of letter attached from me to the Rev. Principal Rivet. It so happens that the previous correspondence had to do with this particular girl. It was impossible for her to be taken away from the School sooner as her parents had to be notified and as they live in an out of the way place they did not get the word, in fact they may not get it for another two weeks as more than likely they are on their traplines and away from the village. However, I have seen all the correspondence and am satisfied that everything possible was done, to get her discharged as soon as possible.

2. In this space record any recommendations which the Board consider should be made to the Department in relation to the health or safety of the pupils of this School.

I am satisfied that every precaution was taken in this case. The Doctor recommended the discharge of this girl a week before the measles broke out, and I instructed that she be sent back home as soon as possible, but the same day measles broke out, (that is the same day that the Rev. Principal received my letter of Nov. 15th.) and in a very few days later the deceased went down with them and died shortly after.

The Doctor and Nurse have done excellent work at the school, in fact the former has given almost daily attention, and the latter has been going day and night for at the present time there are over sixty pupils down with the measles.


Chairman—Indian Agent.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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163-1-23

81. *level file*

33

Montreal Gazette
6-1-37.

Y 6. 1937.

INDIAN BOYS' DEATH SUBJECT OF INQUIRY

Victoria Authorities Ask Full Report—Inquest Verdict Raps School

Victoria, B.C., January 5.—
The Indian Office here today wired
authorities at Vanderhoof, in the
central interior of British Columbia,
for full particulars concerning the
deaths of four Indian boys whose
bodies were found frozen to the ice
of Fraser Lake Saturday night.

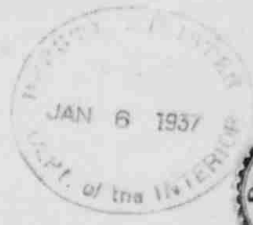
The order was sent following re-
ports from Vanderhoof, approxi-
mately 30 miles from Prince George,
B.C., that a coroner's jury had re-
turned a verdict recommending
that "excessive corporal discipline,"
of practised, be curtailed at the
Lejac Indian School, from which
the boys ran away on New Year's
Day.

The four boys, all under 10 years
old, left the school and started out
for the Nautley Indian Reservation,
reaching within a mile of the Re-
serve before dropping from cold
and exhaustion.

The coroner's jury found that
death was "unavoidable" in view of
the intense cold and the light clothes
the boys were wearing when they
left the school. The jury also
found that school authorities should
have taken more definite action the
night the boys left the school on
their fatal trek.

Report Ordered by Ottawa

Ottawa, January 5.—Officials
of the Indian Affairs Branch are
awaiting a report on the death of
four Indian boys from the Indian
school at Lejac, B.C. As yet the
officials have no information on the
matter, but a full report has been
ordered from the local authorities.



Ottawa Journal.
5-1-37.

Find Four Bodies Small Indian Boys

VANDERHOOF, B.C., Jan. 4.—
Bodies of four small Indian boys,
apparently frozen to death, were
found half-buried in snow near
the east end of Fraser Lake Sat-
urday night. Word of the tragedy
reached here today.

Details were not available.
It was believed the boys, who
were attending the Indian school
at Lejac, on the south side of
Fraser Lake, left Friday to visit
the Nautley reservation at the
east end of the lake.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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CANADA

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163-1-23

to Michael



copy from Press
5/1/37

WINNIPEG, TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1937.

Four B.C. Indian Boys Are Frozen to Death On Way From School

Vanderhoof, B.C., Jan. 5. (CP)—Indians in two reservations mourned, Monday, as a coroner prepared to investigate the deaths of four boys, whose bodies were found on the frozen surface of Fraser lake, Saturday night.

The dead are:
Morris Justice, eight, of Unchalake, south of Burns Lake.
Allen, eight, of Nautley reserve.
Johnny Michael, nine, of Unchalake.
Andrew Paul, nine, of Stoney Creek.

The four bodies were brought to Nautley reserve, near Fort Fraser, where Coroner C. Pitts will hold an inquest. The boys, who left the Indian school at Lejac apparently intent upon trekking to Nautley reserve, were found huddled together in the slush-ice of Fraser lake within three-quarters of a mile of their goal.

The bodies, capless and lightly clad, were frozen together. One of the boys had lost one shoe as he trekked over the lake's icy surface. Fraser lake is about 20 miles east of Vanderhoof and 50 miles west of Prince George. Burns lake is about 50 miles west of Vanderhoof.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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Toronto Daily Star
5-1-37.

OTTAWA ORDERS REPORT

Ottawa, Jan. 5.—Officials of the Indian affairs branch are awaiting a report on the death of four Indian boys. As yet the officials have no information on the matter but a full report has been ordered.

Winnipeg Tribune
5-1-37.

**JURY HEARS HOW
4 INDIAN BOYS
FROZE TO DEATH**

(By The Canadian Press)

VANDERHOOF, B.C., Jan. 5—Recommendation that "excessive corporal discipline in practice" at the Indian school at Lejac, B.C., should be limited, was written today into the findings of a coroner's jury which investigated the deaths of four Indian boys during a trek from the school to the Nautley reservation.

The jury, sitting at Nautley last night, found the boys died in the slush ice over Fraser lake on the night of Jan. 1 from exhaustion and freezing. They found that "such circumstance was unavoidable in view of the evidence in this case."

The verdict said, however, "that more definite action by school authorities might or should have been taken the night on which the disappearance (of the boys from the school) took place."

The boys, all under 10 years old, were found huddled together on the ice Saturday night. They were lightly clad for the bitterly-cold trek they undertook. All were without caps, and one had only one shoe.

Fraser Lake is 20 miles east of Vanderhoof and 50 miles west of Prince George.

Montreal Gazette
5-1-37.

VISITS INDIAN SCHOOLS

**R. A. Hoey, Ottawa Official,
on Inspection Trip**

On his first inspection trip since his appointment December 1, R. A. Hoey, head of the welfare and training services in the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources, will visit Caughnawaga Reserve today. Mr. Hoey, former Minister of Education for Alberta, will inspect the public school on the reserve.

He is merely obtaining information about his new work, Mr. Hoey told a reporter at the Windsor Hotel last night, and for the present will make no recommendations. He has been busy for the past month arranging his office at Ottawa, and up to now has been unable to start field inspection. He will eventually visit all sections of the country where there are Indian Reserves, however.

Mr. Hoey is accompanied by J. Christianson, who received his appointment as general superintendent of agents on the same date. Mr. Hoey was named. Mr. Christianson, formerly chief inspector of agencies for Alberta, will confer with the Indian Agent at Caughnawaga. Afterwards they will both return directly to Ottawa.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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Ottawa
Journal
7-1-37.

Toronto Globe & Mail.

5-1-37.

OUR INDIANS.
Edmonton Journal.

The Federal efforts to better the position of the Indians have had good results in the Dominion as well as in the United States. But it is felt that much more could be accomplished for them and an enlarged program was announced at Ottawa the other day. The department will devote particular attention to improving their skill as trappers and to helping them to take better care of furs before these are marketed.

There are many other ways in which they can be given assistance that will enable them to reach a higher economic plane. The working out of the plans will be followed with keen interest, as the national responsibility for the welfare of the Indian population is widely recognized.

**Four Indian Boys
Frozen to Death**

**Bodies Found on Ice of
Fraser Lake**

Vanderhoof, B.C., Jan. 4 (CP).— Investigation of the deaths of four Indian boys was under way here tonight as Coroner C. Pitts prepared to hold an inquest on the frozen bodies, found on the surface of Fraser Lake.

Huddled together in slush ice only three-quarters of a mile from Nautley Reserve, their goal, the youngsters' bodies were discovered Saturday night. Only today did word of the tragedy reach Vanderhoof, 300 miles northeast of Vancouver.

The dead: Morris Justice and Allen Willie, both 8 years of age; and Johnny Michael and Andrew Paul, both aged 9. The bodies were taken to Nautley Reserve, at the east end of Lake Fraser, for an inquest.

The boys left an Indian school at Lejac, on the southern shore of the lake, apparently intent upon trekking to Nautley Reserve. Capless and lightly clad, the bodies were found frozen together. One boy had lost a shoe as he trekked over the frozen lake surface.

Fraser Lake is about twenty miles east of here in the northern interior of British Columbia.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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FORM 6124

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Night Letter	NL	

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THE SECRETARY

336

DEPT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS OTTAWA ONT

FOUR BOYS FROM LEJAC SCHOOL RAN AWAY AND WERE FROZEN TO DEATH ON
 FRASER LAKE STOP INQUEST HELD YESTERDAY WHEN ACCIDENT VERDICT
 BROUGHT IN BY JURY NO BLAME ATTACHED TO ANYONE STOP FULL REPORT
 FOLLOWING

R H MOORE.

Copy of R.H.P.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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163-1-10.

Form 6102

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DAY LETTER

NIGHT MESSAGE

NIGHT LETTER

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NIGHT LETTER.

Ottawa, January 5, 1937.

R. H. Moore, Esq.,
 Indian Agent,
 Vanderhoof, B.C.

Ottawa newspaper reports four Indian
 boys frozen to death near east end Fraser Lake last Saturday STOP
 Stated to be pupils Lejac Residential School STOP Please for-
 ward complete report at once.

T. R. L. MacInnes.

NGM
 Chg. Dept. I.A.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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OR-COPY

(COPY)

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

Office of
Indian Agent,

Vanderhoof, B.C.,
January 6th, 1937.

Sir:-

I sent you the following night lettergram on January 5th instant.

"Four boys from Lejac School ran away and got frozen to death on Fraser Lake. Stop. Inquest held yesterday when accidental verdict brought in by Jury, no blame attached to anyone. Stop. Full report following."

Which I now beg to confirm.

On Sunday last, January 3rd, at 12.30 P.M. the local Provincial Police called at my house to inform me that an inquest would be held the following day at Fort Fraser to enquire into the death of four boys from the Lejac Residential School who were found frozen to death on Fraser Lake the previous day. As that was the first that I had heard of the sad affair I asked for particulars, and the Constable told me all he knew about the finding of the bodies the night before, the rest would have to wait until the Inquest.

The following morning, January 4th, I left for Fort Fraser by auto in 10 degrees below zero with a blizzard blowing and attended the Inquest which commenced at 10 A.M. and did not conclude until 5 P.M. when the verdict given later in this report was brought in by the Jury. Owing to drifted roads I did not arrive home again that night until 10 o'clock, taking almost four hours to go twenty-six miles, consequently it was too late to wire the Department then as both Telegraph Offices close at 6 P.M. so that is why my wire did not leave until the 5th instant.

I am going to start at the beginning and try to trace the matter right through from the time the boys were last seen at the School on January 1st.

The names of the four boys are as follows:-

#339 - Allen Patrick, aged 9
#324 - Andrew H. Paul " 8
#326 - Justa Maurice " 8
#350 - John Michel Jack aged 7.

The parents of the two from Nautley I.R. #1 were at home and the parents of the boy from Francois Lake were visiting relatives on the Nautley Reserve, while the boy from Cheslatta was a relative of the boy from Francois Lake. The School that day was in charge of Bishop Coudert owing to the fact that the Acting Principal was holding services with the Indians at Stellaquo I.R. and did not get back to the School until 4.30 P.M. These four boys asked permission to visit their relatives that morning but were refused by the Bishop owing to the fact that they were too young to be allowed to leave the School alone. At 4 P.M. that day these boys were with the other children when they were all given their usual afternoon lunch, returning to the recreation hall afterwards. At 6 P.M. when the children went to supper they were missing and the Sister Superior reported so to the Bishop, (although the Acting Principal was then back at the School) who did not advise Father McGrath until that night at 9.15. As soon as the matter was reported to him he made enquiries as to their names and other particulars and hearing that they had asked for permission to go home earlier in the day, and been refused.

The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

POOR-COPY

immediately assumed that they had gone away and expressed the opinion then that as it was so late and a holiday that he would not send for them that night but allow them to stay with their friends and he would get them next day. Owing to the train being late next morning it was not possible to send for the boys until between 12 and 1 o'clock noon. They were not with their friends and then a search party was organized and at 5 P.M. their bodies were found on the lake less than half a mile from shore and safety.

It appeared as if they took French leave immediately following the afternoon lunch and were not missed by the disciplinarian in charge until the children went for supper. They were lightly clad for indoor recreation and as it was about 20 degrees below zero that night, and the distance they had to walk eight miles across the lake with six inches of snow on the ice you can understand that they would probably be dead on the night of the 1st. between 10 P.M. and midnight.

The foregoing is as complete a story as I can give you from the evidence brought out at the Inquest, so far as the tragedy is concerned. However there are other points which were brought out and have to do with the disciplinarians which I did not know before. It seems that last September Bishop Bunoz took it upon himself to appoint two young priests from France, who had recently arrived in this country, as disciplinarians at the School, contrary I understand to the wishes of the Acting Principal. These young men, while charming fellows, could not speak a word of English and knew absolutely nothing about handling Indian children, the result being that we have had a lot of truancy during the past three months, and I personally on one or two occasions suggested to the Acting Principal that he get rid of these Priests and appoint some one who knew something about the job, otherwise truancy would go from bad to worse. I took it that Father McGrath agreed with me and the change would be made, but I did not know that he could not make the change himself until he was under oath as a witness at the Inquest. Consequently, I took immediate action and requested Father McGrath officially to change the disciplinarians immediately and reappoint one of those men who has been a disciplinarian at that School for the past 5 or 6 years. As soon as the roads are open for travel again in a few days I am going up to the School to see that the change has been made. If you will please refer to Mr. Phealan he will tell you that when he visited this Agency two years ago I expressed my views to him on the importance of disciplinarians, with which he fully agreed and even wrote to the Principal at that time making these same suggestions which the Principal agreed to and acted on.

In closing allow me to make the following recommendation. "The School Authorities to be instructed to appoint disciplinarians other than Priests, who understand and can speak the English language well, this to take effect right away."

"I would also recommend that the Church Authorities be given to understand that the Principal must be given full charge and not be interfered with by his superiors, insofar as the management of the School is concerned, otherwise inefficiency is the result."

I am attaching hereto a copy of the Official Coroner's Jury verdict, as well as a copy of a letter from Dr. Pitts, all of which I trust you will find self explanatory. I trust I have covered the whole matter sufficiently in detail in this report, although I could add that I am not satisfied that having Priests using the School as a Headquarters is good business, and I feel should be discouraged.

Your obedient servant,

(sgd) R. H. Moore,

Indian Agent.

The Government of
British Columbia.

I N Q U I S I T I O N .

}

An Inquisition indented taken at Fort Fraser

British Columbia, the 4th day of January, in the first year of the
Reign of our Sovereign Lord the King, before me, C. Pitts, M.D.,
gentleman, one of the Coroners for our Lord the King, for the Province
aforesaid, upon the view of the bodies of Allen Willie, Johnny Michel,
Maurice Justins, Andrew Paul, then and there and within the jurisdiction
of the said Coroner, lying dead, upon the oaths of

Frederick Waite Makins

Herbert George Crowe

Wm. Lewis Taylor

Otto Elbil Vinnedge

Arthir Goodwin

Arthur Wesley Dobson

good and lawful men of Fort Fraser, B.C., aforesaid, in the said province
of British Columbia, who being now sworn and charged to inquire, on the
part of our said Lord the King, when, where, how and after what manner,
the said Allen Willie, Johnny Michel, Maurice Justins and Andrew Paul
came to his death, do say upon their oath, that it is the opinion of this
jury that the deaths of these four boys, viz., Allen Willie, Johnny Michel,
Maurice Justin & Andrew Paul occurred on the east end of Fraser Lake on
the night of Jan. 1st, 1937 and that death was due to exhaustion and
consequent freezing.

We, the jury, feel that such circumstances was unavoidable,
in view of the evidence in this case.

We feel however that more definite action by the school
authorities might or should have been taken the night upon which the
disappearance took place.

Further, it is our opinion that more cooperation between
the authorities and the parents of the children would in future help to
lessen the danger in the future of any repetition of such an incident.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

POOR-COPY

Also, that excessive corporal discipline, if practiced, should be limited and that better understanding would exist between pupils and disciplinarians if the latter were English speaking.

IN WITNESS whereof, as well as the aforesaid Coroner as the jurors aforesaid, have to this Inquisition put their seals on the day and the year and at the place at first above mentioned.

Frederick Waite Makins

Arthur Goodwin

Arthur Wesley Dobson

Herbert George Crowe

Otto E. Vinnege

William Lewis Taylor.

Signed:- C. Pitts, M.D.,

Coroner.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

POOR COPY

COPY

Fraser Lake, B.C.

Jan. 6th.1937.

R.H.Moore Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Vanderhoof, B.C.

Dear Sir:-

As you may know, the results of the late inquest have got into the hands of the Canadian Press Bureau and there is some chance that they might make a little capital of the jury's recommendations which appear to reflect on the school.

I write you because I am in the uncomfortable position, as Coroner, of being the source of the information, and I don't want it to appear that I have gone out of my way to supply information.

Rimes called me up yesterday noon asking for information about the inquest. I gave him the names of the boys, and the account of their disappearance. When he asked for the verdict I considered it best to give it to him, since the inquest was open and he could always get an account of it from someone else possibly exaggerated or incorrect. Apparently he wired this information to the Canadian Press.

Last night I get a wire from the Canadian Press Bureau asking for information as to the testimony which lead to the jury making recommendations that they did, also bearing on conditions at the School. After some thought, it seemed to me best to send a reply, to prevent, if possible, the papers from printing a manufactured story which might end with a Government investigation and what not.

I sent the following reply:-

At Nautley Inquest testimony showed boys did not run away from school because of ill treatment but to spend holidays with parents. Principal of school testified that this often
occurred

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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occurred, that boys had access to proper clothing and had only seven miles to go home, therefore no search was made until next day. Said greater frequency of runaways lately due to fact corporal punishment discouraged by higher authorities. Indian witnesses maintained corporal punishment resulted in runaways, hence jury's recommendation re discipline. No evidence to show cruelty at school or negligence in this particular case.

I showed this to Father McGrath and he was quite satisfied with it. I hope it may prevent any sensational headlining by the papers.

Yours,

Signed C.Pitts, M.D.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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CANADA**

POOR COPY

*2nd & 3rd
Journal*

Jan 5/37

**Find Four Bodies
Small Indian Boys**

VANDERHOOF, B.C., Jan. 4.—Bodies of four small Indian boys, apparently frozen to death, were found half-buried in snow near the east end of Fraser Lake Saturday night. Word of the tragedy reached here today.

Details were not available. It was believed the boys, who were attending the Indian school at Lejac, on the south side of Fraser Lake, left Friday to visit the Nautley reservation at the east end of the lake.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA**

POOR-COPY

Indian School Authorities Absolved in Lake Tragedy

Special to The Vancouver Sun
VICTORIA, Jan. 6.—There is no blame attached to anyone in connection with the death of four Indian boys who ran away on New Year's Day from the Tejac Indian School and were later found frozen to death on Fraser Lake, according to a message received by the Indian Office here from Vanderhoof today.

The message was a reply to a query sent from the local office yesterday which followed word that the jury had recommended limiting of corporal punishment at the school.

R. H. Moore, Indian agent at Vanderhoof, reported the deaths in his wire and added a note that no blame attached to anyone. A full report is being forwarded by mail to the agent here.

NO EVIDENCE OF CRUELTY AT SCHOOL

FRASER LAKE, B. C., Jan. 6.—Coroner C. Pitts said today that an Indian witness' testimony prompted an inquest jury, investigating the deaths of four boys found frozen on the ice of Fraser Lake Saturday, to recommend in their verdict that corporal punishment, if practised at the Lejac Indian School, should be curtailed.

The coroner, who did not give the witness' name, said he testified that corporal punishment resulted in runaways from Indian schools.

However, Pitts said, there was no evidence to show that cruelty at the Lejac School prompted the four boys in question to attempt a fatal trek from the institution to Nautley Reservation New Year's Eve.

Other testimony at the inquest showed the boys left the school only so that they could spend a holiday at the reserve seven miles away across the lake, Pitts said.

The school principal said boys often left on such expeditions and as they had access to proper clothing, no alarm was felt for their safety immediately. A search was started the next day.

The school principal further testified that runaways occurred more frequently lately due to the fact corporal punishment was being discouraged by higher authorities.

The four boys, all under 10 years old, covered more than six miles of their trek before falling from cold and exhaustion. They were hatless and lightly clad for the bitter cold.

A ROUND TOWN

NORQUAY LIBERALS

Norquay Liberal Association will hold its regular meeting on Thursday at 8 p.m. in Norquay Community Hall.

1936 REPORTS

Snappy verbal reports of 1936 committee chairman will feature the luncheon meeting of the Kiwanis Club in the Oak Room, Hotel Vancouver, at 12:15 p.m. Thursday. Following the reports will be a club singsong.

LEADERS' COUNCIL

A leaders' council is to be formed at a meeting at 8:30 p.m. Friday, mezzanine floor, Vancouver Block, to organize groups of children for recreational and social activities. The council is being sponsored by the C. C. F. and other progressive groups interested in providing greater opportunities for spare time activities for children from 6 to 14 years.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting and election of officers of Burrard Field Naturalists' Club will be held in the City Museum at 8 p.m. Friday. Fred Perry will read a paper entitled "The Flora of Bella Coola and Adjacent Mountains."

SOCIAL CREDIT TALK

Peer V. Paynter, Social Credit nominee for Burrard, will speak on "Canada's Next Step Toward Social Credit" at the weekly forum at Social Credit headquarters at 8 p.m. Thursday.

LAND OF ROMANCE

"Spain, Land of Romance, Religion and Revolt," will be the subject of an address by Rev. Andrew Roddan in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Glen Drive and Eighteenth Avenue, on January 12.

The address will be the first of a series of six sponsored by the managing board of the church, and future speakers will include Helen Gregory McGill, Juvenile Court judge, and Edward H. Planche, Oakalla medical adviser.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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Yours,

Signed:- C. Pitts, M.D.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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CANADA**

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(CORONER)

COPY.

The Government of
British Columbia.

I N Q U I S I T I O N .

An Inquisition indented taken at Fort Fraser
British Columbia, the 4th. day of January, in the first year of the
reign of our Sovereign Lord the King, before me, C.Pitts, M.D.,
gentleman, one of the Coroners for our Lord the King, for the
Province aforesaid, upon the view of the bodies of Allen Willie,
Johnny Michel, Maurice Justine, Andrew Paul, then and there and
within the jurisdiction of the said Coroner, lying dead, upon the
oaths of

Frederick Waite Makins

Herbert George Crowe

Wm. Lewis Taylor

Otto Elbil Vinnedge

Arthir Goodwin

Arthur Wesley Dobson

good and lawful men of Fort Fraser, B.C., aforesaid, in the said
province of British Columbia, who being now sworn and charged to
inquire, on the part of our said Lord the King, when, where, how,
and after what manner, the said Allen Willie, Jonny Michel, Maurice
Justine and Andrew Paul came to his death, do say upon their oath,
that it is the opinion of this jury that the deaths of these four
boys, viz., Allen Willie, Johnny Michel, Maurice Justin & Andrew Paul
occured on the east end of Fraser Lake on the night of Jan. 1st. 1937
and that death was due to exhaustion and consequent freezing.

We, the jury, feel that such circumstances was unavoidable, in
view of the evidence in this case.

We feel however that more definite action by the school
authorities might or should have been taken the night upon which the
disappearance took place.

Further, it is our opinion that more cooperation between the
authorities and the parents of the children would in future help to
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Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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CANADA

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Also, that excessive corporal discipline, if practiced, should be limited and that better understanding would exist between pupils and disciplinarians if the latter were English speaking.

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Arthur Goodwin

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Signed:- C. Fitts, M.D.,

Coroner.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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CANADA

POOR COPY

Division "D"
 District - Fort George
 Detachment: Vanderhoof Unorganized territory.

R E P O R T

Re

WILLIE, Allen (Indian) Nautley Reserve, Fort Fraser, B.C.
 MICHEL, JOHNNY " Uncha Lake, B.C.
 JUSTIN, MAURICE " Uncha Lake, B.C.
 PAUL, ANDREW " Stony Creek Reserve, B.C.

INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH of.

 On January 2, 1937, I received a phone call at 8.05 p.m. from Father Patrick McGrath, Principal of the Indian Residential School, Lejac, B.C. to the effect that four Indian boys had been found dead on Fraser Lake near the Nautley Indian Reservation. I instructed Father McGrath to notify the Coroner Dr. W.C. Pitts at Fraser Lake, B.C.

I immediately proceeded to Nautley Reserve, where I was met by Coroner Pitts. We were guided on to the lake to where the bodies were lying.

The bodies were examined by the Coroner and myself, and it was found that they had died of freezing. There were no marks of violence found on any of the bodies. The bodies were then taken to the Nautley Reserve and kept there until Monday January 4, 1937.

Witnesses were warned to appear at the Gov't Office Fort Fraser on January 4, 1937, where an inquest was to be held.

On Monday, January the 4th, 1937, a jury was summoned. The Jury having been duly sworn proceeded to view the bodies.

Witnesses called:-

Jean Donze duly sworn stated: I am a Priest residing at the Residential School at Lejac, B.C. I am in charge of the Indian boys at the school in the afternoon one week and the mornings the next week. I was on duty January 1st, 1937, in the afternoon. It was at 4 pm on January 1st that I last saw the four boys alive. They were not dressed for going outside. They apparently left the school shortly after 4.30 p.m. for they have lunch at that time, they were not seen afterwards. They should have reported back to me. They left without permission. They were dressed just to be in the play hall, they could not have obtained any more of their clothes without me seeing them as they were in the play hall and I was there all the time. I have been in charge of the boys for about three months, and have not had any trouble with them. The boys were missed by Sister Superior of the dining room at 6 pm and I understand she reported to Bishop Coudert who was in charge during Father McGrath's absence. I was told that they were missing at 6.30 pm I did not do anything as I was not responsible. Nothing was done until the next morning. There were quite a lot of visitors on January 1st and it was thought that they had gone away with some of them. Father McGrath told Mr. Corcoran to go to Nautley Reserve to get the boys with the car next morning about 1 o'clock January 2, 1937. The boys could go to the barns, and around the grounds also to the visitors parlour without permission, so it is impossible for us to see them at all times.

Father Patrick McGrath, duly sworn stated: I am Acting Principal of the Indian Residential School at Lejac, B.C. On January 1st, 1937, I was at Stellaquo Reserve and did not return to the school until 5 pm that evening, but it was not until 9.15 pm that I heard that the four boys were missing.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
 ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
 CANADA

R-COPY

RE.	WILLIE, Allen (Indian)	Hautley Reserve, Fort Fraser, B.C.
	MICHEL, Johnny	Uncha Lake, B.C.
	JUSTIN, Maurice	Uncha Lake, B.C.
	PAUL, Andrew	Stony Creek Reserve, B.C.

It was first reported to Bishop Goudart. When I was told, I asked for the names of the four boys. I knew that the parents were at the Hautley Reserve and felt quite sure that they had reached the reserve, as there were quite a number of visitors from the reserve at the school that afternoon as I met several of them going home. I did not consider the possibility of the boys going by the lake, they generally use the Railway track or the road, when going home. I decided to send the car for them in the morning. Then the children when they run away from the school, they are welcomed home by the parents, and if they go home the parents do not notify the school that they are home, and they will not send them back. In the morning January 2nd. our driver Mr. Corcoran who is the Postmaster was not free as the mail was late, did not leave until noon. He went to the Hautley Reservation and then returned and informed me that the boys had not arrived home. I became immediately alarmed. I went to Stellaquo Reservation and made enquiries, but the boys had not arrived there. I went to the Hautley Reserve and questioned one of the boys' parents closely, but could find no trace of them. A search party was organized about 4 P.M. January 2nd. At 7 P.M. I was notified by phone that the bodies of the four boys had been found. I phoned Constable Jennings, Vanderhoof, B.C. and Corcoran Pitts. On arrival of the Corcoran and Constable Jennings at Hautley Reserve a guide took them to the bodies. The bodies were then brought to the Hautley Reserve.

The appointment of the Priests, as supervisors of the boys are appointed by my superiors, not myself. I think that supervisors who speak good English, would be more effective in controlling the children. It is my opinion that the children are sufficiently clothed. I did not know the four boys were poorly clothed. They could have obtained more clothing from the play room, and might have taken clothes without being seen. I did not worry about the boys until next day. Leaving without permission has occurred before. There are seventy-one boys at the school. They are allowed considerable latitude to roam around about, within certain boundaries. Ninety per cent of the children at the school are there against their parents' wishes, and they are not disciplined by the parents, when they make up their minds to run away it is practically impossible to prevent them doing so.

Patrik Joseph Corcoran, Lejac, B.C. - duly sworn:- Stated:- I am a chauffeur, I am employed at the Lejac Indian Residential School, Lejac, B.C. I first heard of the four boys missing from the school on January 2nd at 9 P.M. I was told by Bishop Goudart. I went to Father McGrath, who instructed me to go to the Hautley Reserve with the car and fetch the boys back to the school. I left about one o'clock. I went to the Reserve and saw Chief Louis George, he had not seen the boys. I went to the home of one of the boys; Mrs. Sylvester Patrik, she told me they were not there but they might have gone to Stellaquo Reserve. I returned to the school and informed Father McGrath. Then with Father McGrath I went to Stellaquo Reserve. We returned to the school and I made a search around to see if I could track them. We then went to Hautley Reserve and a search party was sent out. Father McGrath was notified about 7 P.M. that the bodies had been found.

I was disciplinarian over the boys from 1931 to 1934 inclusive. I consider the children warmly clothed. I had to watch them closely to prevent them from discarding their clothing. I do not think the present disciplinarians have enough authority, and believe that English speaking disciplinarians would be better. Truancy among the Indian children, seems to come in cycles particularly in the spring and fall. It is simply a desire for liberty, and not due to any grievance against the authorities. The four boys had asked permission to go home but they had been refused. It is the first time any of the children have gone by the lake when they have run away.

Charlie Charlie: - Indian, duly sworn stated:- I reside on the Hautley

POOR-COPY

Continued:- Page 3.

Re. WILLIE, Allen (Indian) Nautley Reserve, Fort Fraser, B.C.
 MICHEL, Johnny " Uncha Lake, B.C.
 JUSTIN, Maurice " Uncha Lake, B.C.
 PAUL, Andrew " Stony Creek Reserve, B.C.

Indian Reserve. I heard about the four boys missing on January 2nd 1937, about 4 PM. I was asked by Father McGrath to go out and search for them. Pierre William and Francois Joe went along the C.N.R. tracks, and Justin Maurice's boy and myself went on the North shore of Fraser Lake, we then crossed the ice to the South shore. We found the tracks of the four boys, just East of the point at Encombe, and we followed them East and we found the boys, about 5-30 PM. Three of the boys were lying together, and one about seventy-five feet away. They were lying face downwards. The tracks were going straight, and did not waver around. They were going straight to the Nautley Village, until they came to the open water, at the Nautley River, then they turned South towards the South shore. The bodies were about seven miles from the school, half a mile from the Nautley Reserve and about a quarter of a mile from the South shore. I followed the tracks for about three miles before I found the bodies, the tracks showed they were pretty tired. After I found the bodies, I went to Nautley and Chief Maxine George phoned the police. It took me about three quarters of an hour to travel three miles.

Constable Jennings, duly sworn stated:- On Saturday, January 2nd, 1937, I received a phone call from the Indian Residential School at Lejac, B.C. at 8-05 PM to the effect that four bodies of the missing boys had been found. I proceeded to the scene with the Coroner. The bodies were out on the ice of Fraser Lake about three quarters of a mile from the Nautley Reserve. The bodies were those of four young boys about the age of eight years, three bodies were lying together. One on his back and one lying face down over his abdomen the other a few feet away face downwards in the snow. The fourth was about twenty-five yards from the three lying face downwards. They were dressed in underwear, blue overall pants and denim shirts, no hats, heavy woollen socks and low rubbers. One boy had lost one sock and rubber. Where the three bodies were lying the snow was packed for a radius of ten feet, the one that was a short distance away had packed the snow very little. The bodies were examined by the Coroner and myself, and they were then taken to Nautley Reserve. The distance they had travelled would take them at least six hours. They did not appear to have fallen into the water as the clothing was not frozen. It is my opinion that they died on January 1st, 1937.

VERDICT:- It is the opinion of this Jury, that the deaths of the four boys, viz. Allen Willie, Johnny Michel, Maurice Justin and Andrew Paul, occurred on the East end of Fraser Lake on the night of January 1st., 1937, and that death was due to exhaustion and consequent freezing.

We, the Jury, feel that such circumstances was unavoidable in view of the evidence of this case. We, feel however, that more definite action by the school authorities might, or should have been taken the night upon which the disappearance took place. Further, it is our opinion, that more co-operation between the authorities, and the parents of the children, would in future help to lessen the danger of any repetition of such an incident. Also that excessive corporal discipline, if practiced, should be limited, and that better understanding would exist between the pupils, and disciplinarians if the latter were English speaking.

The Jury were the following:-

Foreman, - Frederick Waite Makins,

Hernert George Crow, William Lewis Taylor,

Otto Elbil Vinnedge, Arthur Goodwin, Arthur Wesley Dobson.

The N.C.O. i/c
 Fort George Dist., B.C.P.P.
 Prince George, B.C.

H.J. Jennings, Constable,
 i/c Vanderhoof Detachment.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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 ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
 CANADA

POOR-COPY

Copy

Division "D"
District - Fort George
Detachment: Vanderhoof

Date 7/1/37

Unorganized territory.

REPORT

Re. WILLIE, Allen (Indian) Nautley Reserve, Fort Fraser, B.C.
MICHEL, JOHNNY " Uncha Lake, B.C.
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Jean Donze duly sworn stated: I am a Priest residing at the Residential School at Lejac, B.C. I am in charge of the Indian boys at the school in the afternoon one week and the mornings the next week. I was on duty January 1st, 1937, in the afternoon. It was at 4 pm on January 1st that I last saw the four boys alive. They were not dressed for going outside. They apparently left the school shortly after 4.30 p.m. for they have lunch at that time, they were not seen afterwards. They should have reported back to me. They left without permission. They were dressed just to be in the play hall, they could not have obtained any more of their clothes without me seeing them as they were in the play hall and I was there all the time. I have been in charge of the boys for about three months, and have not had any trouble with them. The boys were missed by Sister Superior of the dining room at 5 pm and I understand she reported to Bishop Coudert who was in charge during Father McGrath's absence. I was told that they were missing at 8.30 pm. I did not do anything as I was not responsible. Nothing was done until the next morning. There were quite a lot of visitors on January 1st and it was thought that they had gone away with some of them. Father McGrath told Mr. Corcoran to go to Nautley Reserve to get the boys with the car next morning about 1 o'clock January 2, 1937. The boys could go to the barns, and around the grounds also to the visitors parlour without permission, so it is impossible for us to see them at all times.

Father Patrick McGrath, duly sworn stated: I am Acting Principal of the Indian Residential School at Lejac, B.C. On January 1st, 1937, I was at Stellaquo Reserve and did not return to the school until 5 pm that evening, but it was not until 9.15 pm that I heard that the four boys were missing.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
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POOR-COPY

Continued:- Page 2.

RE. WILLIE, Allen (Indian)	Nautley Reserve, Fort Fraser, B.C.
MICHEL, Johnny	Uncha Lake, B.C.
JUSTIN, Maurice	Uncha Lake, B.C.
PAUL, Andrew	Stony Creek Reserve, B.C.

It was first reported to Bishop Condert. When I was told, I asked for the names of the four boys. I knew that the parents were at the Nautley Reserve and felt quite sure that they had reached the reserve, as there were quite a number of visitors from the reserve at the school that afternoon as I met several of them going home. I did not consider the possibility of the boys going by the lake, they generally use the Railway track or the road, when going home. I decided to send the car for them in the morning. Then the children when they run away from the school, they are welcomed home by the parents, and if they go home the parents do not notify the school that they are home, and they will not send them back. In the morning January 2nd. our driver Mr. Corcoran who is the Postmaster was not free as the mail was late, did not leave until noon. He went to the Nautley Reservation and then returned and informed me that the boys had not arrived home. I became immediately alarmed. I went to Stellaquo Reservation and made enquiries, but the boys had not arrived there. I went to the Nautley Reserve and questioned one of the boys' parents closely, but could find no trace of them. A search party was organized about 4 P.M. January 2nd. At 7 P.M. I was notified by phone that the bodies of the four boys had been found. I phoned Constable Jennings, Vanderhoof, B.C. and Corcoran Pitts. On arrival of the Corcoran and Constable Jennings at Nautley Reserve a guide took them to the bodies. The bodies were then brought to the Nautley Reserve.

The appointment of the Priests, as supervisors of the boys are appointed by my superiors, not myself. I think that supervisors who speak good English, would be more effective in controlling the children. It is my opinion that the children are sufficiently clothed. I did not know the four boys were poorly clothed. They could have obtained more clothing from the play room, and might have taken clothes without being seen. I did not worry about the boys until next day. Leaving without permission has occurred before. There are seventy-one boys at the school. They are allowed considerable latitude to roam around about, within certain boundaries. Ninety per cent of the children at the school are there against their parents' wishes, and they are not disciplined by the parents, when they make up their minds to run away it is practically impossible to prevent them doing so.

Patrik Joseph Corcoran, Lejac, B.C - duly sworn:- Stated:- I am a chauffeur, I am employed at the Lejac Indian Residential School, Lejac, B.C. I first heard of the four boys missing from the school on January 2nd at 9 P.M. I was told by Bishop Condert. I went to Father McGrath, who instructed me to go to the Nautley Reserve with the car and fetch the boys back to the school. I left about one o'clock. I went to the Reserve and saw Chief Louis George, he had not seen the boys. I went to the home of one of the boys; Mrs. Sylvester Patrick, she told me they were not there but they might have gone to Stellaquo Reserve, I returned to the school and informed Father McGrath. Then with Father McGrath I went to Stellaquo Reserve. We returned to the school and I made a search around to see if I could track them. We then went to Nautley Reserve and a search party was sent out. Father McGrath was notified about 7 P.M. that the bodies had been found.

I was disciplinarian over the boys from 1931 to 1934 inclusive. I consider the children warily clothed. I had to watch them closely to prevent them from discarding their clothing. I do not think the present disciplinarians have enough authority, and believe that English speaking disciplinarians would be better. Truancy among the Indian children, seems to come in cycles particularly in the spring and fall. It is simply a desire for liberty, and not due to any grievance against the authorities. The four boys had asked permission to go home but they had been refused. It is the first time any of the children have gone by the lake when they have run away.

Charlie Charlie: - Indian, duly sworn stated:- I reside on the Nautley

Continued:- Page 3.

Re. WILLIE, Allen (Indian) Nautley Reserve, Fort Fraser, B.C.
 MICHEL, Johnny " Uncha Lake, B.C.
 JUSTIN, Maurice " Uncha Lake, B.C.
 PAUL, Andrew " Stony Creek Reserve, B.C.

Indian Reserve. I heard about the four boys missing on January 2nd 1937, about 4 PM. I was asked by Father McGrath to go out and search for them. Pierre William and Francois Joe went along the C.N.R. tracks, and Justin Maurice's boy and myself went on the North shore of Fraser Lake, we then crossed the ice to the South shore. We found the tracks of the four boys, just East of the point at Encombe, and we followed them East and we found the boys, about 5-30 PM. Three of the boys were lying together, and one about seventy-five feet away. They were lying face downwards. The tracks were going straight, and did not waver around. They were going straight to the Nautley Village, until they came to the open water, at the Nautley River, then they turned South towards the South shore. The bodies were about seven miles from the school, half a mile from the Nautley Reserve and about a quarter of a mile from the South shore. I followed the tracks for about three miles before I found the bodies, the tracks showed they were pretty tired. After I found the bodies, I went to Nautley and Chief Maxine George phoned the police. It took me about three quarters of an hour to travel three miles.

Constable Jennings, duly sworn stated:- On Saturday, January 2nd, 1937, I received a phone call from the Indian Residential School at Lejac, B.C. at 8-05 PM to the effect that four bodies of the missing boys had been found. I proceeded to the scene with the Coroner. The bodies were out on the ice of Fraser Lake about three quarters of a mile from the Nautley Reserve. The bodies were those of four young boys about the age of eight years, three bodies were lying together. One on his back and one lying face down over his abdomen the other a few feet away face downwards in the snow. The fourth was about twenty-five yards from the three lying face downwards. They were dressed in underwear, blue overall pants and denim shirts, no hats, heavy woollen socks and low rubbers. One boy had lost one sock and rubber. Where the three bodies were lying the snow was packed for a radius of ten feet, the one that was a short distance away had packed the snow very little. The bodies were examined by the Coroner and myself, and they were then taken to Nautley Reserve. The distance they had travelled would take them at least six hours. They did not appear to have fallen into the water as the clothing was not frozen. It is my opinion that they died on January 1st, 1937.

VERDICT:- It is the opinion of this Jury, that the deaths of the four boys, viz. Allen Willie, Johnny Michel, Maurice Justin and Andrew Paul, occurred on the East end of Fraser Lake on the night of January 1st., 1937, and that death was due to exhaustion and consequent freezing.

We, the Jury, feel that such circumstances was unavoidable in view of the evidence of this case. We, feel however, that more definite action by the school authorities might, or should have been taken the night upon which the disappearance took place. Further, it is our opinion, that more co-operation between the authorities, and the parents of the children, would in future help to lessen the danger of any repetition of such an incident. Also that excessive corporal discipline, if practiced, should be limited, and that better understanding would exist between the pupils, and disciplinarians if the latter were English speaking.

The Jury were the followings:-

Foreman, - Frederick Waite Makins,

Hernert George Crow, William Lewis Taylor,

Otto Elbil Vinnedge, Arthur Goodwin, Arthur Wesley Dobson.

The N.C.O. i/c
 Fort George Dist., B.C.P.P.
 Prince George, B.C.

H.J. Jennings, Constable,
 i/c Vanderhoof Detachment.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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163-1-23 FORM 6124

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Night Letter	NL

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HAROLD W MACGILL

DEPUTY SUPT GENERAL INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH OTTAWA ONT

STENOGRAPHIC VERBATIM REPORT NOT TAKEN WRITTEN IN LONGHAND BY

CORONER FULL TEXT OF WHICH IN MAIL

R H MOORE.

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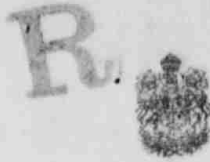


Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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163-1-23

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

OFFICE OF
INDIAN AGENT



[Handwritten signature]
Vanderhoof, B.C., Jan. 8th. 1937.

Sir:-

Please refer to Official Circular Letter dated April 17th. 1935 File No. C -1-1-23 regarding the completing of form No. 414 immediately following the death of a pupil of an Indian Residential School.

In this connection I beg to advise that since the death of the four boys who were found dead on Fraser Lake it has not been possible for me to hold this inquiry owing to the fact that some of my family had the measles and I did not consider it advisable to go to the School until all fear of carrying the disease there would be over. I will however give this matter my attention at the earliest possible date.

Your obedient servant,

R.H. Moore,
Indian Agent.

RHM/L.

The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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Ottawa, January 18th 1937.

Moore
R.H. Moore
Indian Agent
Vanderhoof, B.C.

IF STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF EVIDENCE OF INQUEST INTO
DEATH OF FOUR BOYS LEJAC SCHOOL AVAILABLE
FORWARD COPY TO DEPARTMENT

Harold W McGill

Charge I.A.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

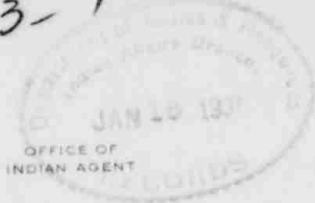
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163-1-23

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA



[Handwritten signature]

Vanderhoof, B.C., January 11th. 1937.

Sir:-

Further to my report of January the 6th. inst. regarding the four boys who were frozen to death on Fraser Lake after having taken French leave from the Lejac Indian Residential School.. I wish to advise that I have just been informed by the School authorities that the mackinaw coats and other heavy outer garments were found on Fraser Lake a few days ago. It would appear now as if the boys were wearing their regular winter clothes, overcoats and caps when they ran away but found travelling over the ice rather warm work with their coats on and took them off and threw them on the ice, continuing without them.

I deem it advisable to send this information now as some of the stories in the press were rather exaggerated and seem to emphasise the fact that the boys were inadequately clad.

Your obedient servant,

[Handwritten signature: R.H. Moore]

R.H. Moore,
Indian Agent.

*This letter
shown to Mr. W. Hill
on Jan 19/37
RHM/L.
AP*

The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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163-1-23
DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
JAN 15 1937
RECORDED
JAN 19 1937
DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

H2-23 R-NO. 237
DEPT. OF INTERIOR
OTTAWA, CANADA
DEC. 31-36
BACKS
SCHOOL
BOYS' DEATH

**Finds Circumstances
Of Death Were
Unavoidable.**

BODIES IN SNOW

(By Canadian Press.)
VANDERHOOF, Jan. 5.—Recommendation that "excessive corporal discipline if practiced" at the Indian school at Lejac, B. C., should be limited, was written today into the findings of a coroner's jury which investigated the deaths of four Indian boys during a trek from the school to the Nautley reservation.

The jury, sitting at Nautley last night, found that the boys died in the slush-ice over Fraser Lake on the night of January 1 from exhaustion and freezing. They found that "such circumstances was unavoidable, in view of the evidence in this case."

CO-OPERATION NEEDED.

The verdict continued: "We feel, however, that more definite action by school authorities might, or should have been taken the night upon which the disappearance (of the boys from the school) took place. Further, it is our opinion that more co-operation between the authorities and the parents of the pupils in the future would lessen the danger of any repetition of such an incident."

"We feel that excessive corporal discipline if practiced should be limited and that better understanding would exist between pupils and disciplinarians if the latter were English-speaking."

HUDDLED TOGETHER.

The boys, all under ten years old, were found huddled together on the ice Saturday night.

They were lightly clad for the bitterly cold trek they undertook, all were without caps, and one had only one shoe.

Fraser Lake is twenty miles east of Vanderhoof, and fifty miles west of Prince George.

**Indian Office
Seeks Information**

VICTORIA, Jan. 5.—(CP) — The Indian office here today wired authorities at Vanderhoof for full particulars concerning the deaths of four Indian children whose bodies were found frozen to the ice of Fraser Lake Saturday night.

The order was sent following reports from Vanderhoof, approximately thirty miles from Prince George, B. C., that a coroner's jury had returned a verdict recommending that "excessive corporal discipline if practiced" be curtailed at the Lejac Indian School, from which the boys ran away on New Year's Day.

DEATH "UNAVOIDABLE."

The four left the school and started out for the Nautley Indian reservation, reaching within a mile of the reserve before dropping from cold and exhaustion. The coroner's jury found that death was "unavoidable" in view of the intense cold and the light clothes the boys were wearing when they left the school.

OTTAWA ASKS, TOO.

OTTAWA, Jan. 5.—(CP) — Officials of the Indian affairs branch are awaiting a report on the death of four Indian boys from the Indian school at Lejac, B. C. As yet the officials have no information on the matter, but a full report has been ordered from the local authorities.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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Indian School Changes Urged

Coroner's Jury Brings in Verdict on Deaths of Four Boys at Fraser Lake, B.C.

Canadian Press
Vanderhoof, Jan. 5.—Recommendation that "excessive corporal discipline, if practiced, at the Indian school at Lejac, B.C., should be limited, was written today into the findings of the coroner's jury which investigated the deaths of four Indian boys during a trek from the school to the Nautley Reservation.

The jury, sitting at Nautley yesterday evening, found the boys died in the slush ice over Fraser Lake on the night of January 1 from exhaustion and freezing. They found that "such circumstance was unavoidable in view of the evidence in this case."

CO-OPERATION URGED

The verdict continued:

"We feel, however, that more definite action by school authorities might or should have been taken the night upon which the disappearance of the boys from the school took place. Further, it is our opinion that more co-operation between the authorities and the parents of the pupils in the future would lessen the danger of any repetition of such an incident.

"We feel that excessive corporal discipline, if practiced, should be limited and that better understanding would exist between pupils and disciplinarians if the latter were English-speaking."

The boys, all under ten years old, were found huddled together on the ice Saturday night.

They were lightly clad for the bitterly cold trek they undertook. All were without caps and one had only one shoe.

Fraser Lake is twenty miles east of Vanderhoof and fifty miles west of Prince George.

INDIAN CHIEF MISSING.

Fort Frances, Ont., Jan. 10 (CP).—Chief Petwayash, 60-year-old leader of the Stanjakoming Indian band, was feared dead tonight, after being missing a week from his home on the reserve near here. Petwayash's snowshoes were found a mile from his cabin as police began a search.

*Toronto Globe
+ mail
11 January 1937*

INDIANS FELICITATE KING.

BRANTFORD, Jan. 11.—Message of congratulations and loyalty has been sent to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth through the Governor General of Canada by the Indians of the Six Nations reserve here.

*Ottawa Journal
12 January 1937*

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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Ottawa, Jan. 19, 1937.

R. H. Moore

Indian Agent

Vanderhoof, B.C.

WAS STENOGRAPHIC VERBATIM REPORT OF INQUEST
EVIDENCE TAKEN WIRE REPLY

Harold W. McGill

showed
Charge I.A.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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January 15, 1937.

His Excellency

The Governor-General in Council.

The undersigned has the
honour to recommend that

be appointed a Commissioner under Part II of the Inquiries Act to investigate and report the circumstances in connection with the truancy from the Le Jac Residential School, in the Stuart Lake Indian Agency, in the Province of British Columbia, of four Indian boys, and their death due to exhaustion and freezing, on or about the 1st of January, 1937, and to recommend further that the Commissioner be paid the sum of twenty-five dollars per day for every day actually engaged in the performance of his duties and labour as such Commissioner, together with, when travelling, his actual travelling expenses, and ten dollars per day for sustenance allowance, and that he be authorized to engage the services of a stenographer in British Columbia to take down and transcribe the evidence and to act as clerk.

*BT
Approved*

Minister of Mines and Resources.

TRM

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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January 18th. 1927.

MEMORANDUM

Deputy Minister -

Referring to the unfortunate occurrence at the Lejac Indian Residential School, British Columbia, I enclose herewith for your consideration copies of reports from the Indian agent and the Coroner.

I would recommend that the Judge of the County Court be appointed a Commissioner under Part II of the Inquiries Act to investigate and report on the circumstances in connection with the truancy from the Lejac Residential School of four Indian boys and their death due to exhaustion and consequent freezing.

Stewart

Director of Indian Affairs.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADAOFFICE OF
INDIAN AGENT

Vanderhoof, B.C., January 6th. 1937.

Sir:-

I sent you the following night lettergram on January 5th. instant.

"Four boys from Lejac School ran away and got frozen to death on Fraser Lake. Stop. Inquest held yesterday when accidental verdict brought in by jury, no blame attached to anyone. Stop. Full report following."

Which I now beg to confirm.

On Sunday last, January 3rd., at 12:30 P.M. the local Provincial Police called at my house to inform me that an inquest would be held the following day at Fort Fraser to enquire into the death of four boys from the Lejac Residential School who were found frozen to death on Fraser Lake the previous day. As that was the first that I had heard of the sad affair I asked for particulars, and the Constable told me all he knew about the finding of the bodies the night before, the rest would have to wait until the inquest.

The following morning, January 4th. I left for Fort Fraser by auto in 10 degrees below zero with a blizzard blowing and attended the inquest which commenced at 10 A.M. and did not conclude until 5 P.M. when the verdict given later in this report was brought in by the Jury. Owing to drifted roads I did not arrive home again that night until 10 o'clock, taking almost four hours to go twenty-six miles, consequently it was too late to wire the Department then as both telegraph offices close at 6 P.M. so that is why my wire did not leave until the 5th. instant.

I am going to start at the beginning and try to trace the matter right through from the time the boys were last seen at the School on January 1st.

The names of the four boys are as follows:-

#339	-	Allen Patrick	aged	9
#324	-	Andrew H. Paul	"	8
#326	-	Justa Maurice	"	8
#350	-	John Michel Jack	"	7

The parents of the two from Nautley I.R. #1 were at home and the parents of the boy from Francois Lake were visiting relatives on the Nautley Reserve, while the boy from Cheslatta was a relative of the boy from Francois Lake. The School that day was in charge of Bishop Coudert owing to the fact that the Acting Principal was holding services with the Indians at Stellaquo I.R. and did not get back to the School until 4-30 P.M. These four boys asked permission to visit their relatives that morning but were refused by the Bishop owing to the fact that they were too young to be allowed to leave the School alone. At 4 P.M. that day these boys were with the other children when they were all given their usual afternoon lunch, returning to the recreation hall afterwards. At 6 P.M. when the children went to supper they were missing and the Sister Superior reported so to the Bishop, (although the Acting Principal was then back at the School) who did not advise Father McGrath until that night at 9-15. As soon as the matter was reported to him he made enquiries

The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont.

The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont.

enquiries as to their names and other particulars and hearing that they had asked for permission to go home earlier in the day, and been refused, immediately assumed that they had gone away and expressed the opinion then that as it was so late and a holiday that he would not send for them that night but allow them to stay with their friends and he would get them next day. Owing to the train being late next morning it was not possible to send for the boys until between 12 and 1 o'clock noon. They were not with their friends and then a search party was organised and at 5 P.M. their bodies were found on the lake less than half a mile from shore and safety.

It appeared as if they took French leave immediately following the afternoon lunch and were not missed by the disciplinarian in charge until the children went for supper. They were lightly clad for indoor recreation and as it was about 20 degrees below zero that night, and the distance they had to walk eight miles across the lake with six inches of snow on the ice you can understand that they would probably be dead on the night of the 1st. between 10 P.M. and midnight.

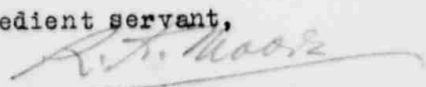
The foregoing is as complete a story as I can give you from the evidence brought out at the inquest, so far as the tragedy is concerned. However there are other points which were brought out and have to do with the disciplinarians which I did not know before. It seems that last September Bishop Bunoz took it upon himself to appoint two young priests from France, who had recently arrived in this country, as disciplinarians at the School, contrary I understand to the wishes of the Acting Principal. These young men, while charming fellows, could not speak a word of English and knew absolutely nothing about handling Indian children, the result being that we have had a lot of truancy during the past three months, and I personally on one or two occasions suggested to the Acting Principal that he get rid of these priests and appoint some one who knew something about the job, otherwise truancy would go from bad to worse. I took it that Father McGrath agreed with me and the change would be made, but I did not know that he could not make the change himself until he was under oath as a witness at the Inquest. Consequently, I took immediate action and requested Father McGrath officially to change the disciplinarians immediately and reappoint one of those men who has been a disciplinarian at that School for the past 5 or 6 years. As soon as the roads are open for travel again in a few days I am going up to the School to see that the change has been made. If you will please refer to Mr. Pheasant he will tell you that when he visited this Agency two years ago I expressed my views to him on the importance of disciplinarians, with which he fully agreed and even wrote to the Principal at that time making these same suggestions which the Principal agreed to and acted on.

In closing allow me to make the following recommendation. "The School Authorities to be instructed to appoint disciplinarians other than priests, who understand and can speak the English language well, this to take effect right away."

"I would also recommend that the Church Authorities be given to understand that the Principal must be given full charge and not be interfered with by his superiors, insofar as the management of the School is concerned, otherwise inefficiency is the result."

I am attaching hereto a copy of the Official Coroner's Jury verdict, as well as a copy of a letter from Dr. Pitts, all of which I trust you will find self explanatory. I trust I have covered the whole matter sufficiently in detail in this report, although I could add that I am not satisfied that having Priests using the School as a Headquarters is good business, and I feel should be discouraged.

Your obedient servant,


R.H. Moore,
Indian Agent.

RHM/L.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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INDIAN OFFICE
SERVICE AGENCY
MAY 3 1939
SHAPH CREEK, B.C.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL GRADUATE

[Handwritten signature]

LEJAC Indian Residential School
May 31st, 19³⁷.....

TO Mr. A. A. Moore,
Indian Agent,
Vanderhoof, B.C.

[Circular stamp]

[Large handwritten letter 'R']

I desire to inform you that the under-mentioned pupil will
be discharged from this school on Sept. 1937
Name of Pupil & register number Paul Shorty 306
Age on Discharge 11
Number of years in school Two years
Trade or industry learned Chores
General remarks of Principal re above pupil ... Very good conduct
..... Very willing but not much energy.
Reserve to which pupil is being sent .. Liard ..

[Handwritten signature: W. Byrne - Paul m.]
Principal.

REPORT OF INDIAN AGENT regarding life of above pupil
since date of discharge.

Returned in a sick state and rapidly got worse
at Liard Post, was under care of the R.C. Mission there but
End of First Year
End of Second Year Died November 14, 1938.
End of Third Year
End of Fourth Year
End of Fifth Year

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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CANADA

POOR-COPY

163-1-23

File

Ottawa, April 9, 1937.

MEMORANDUM

Deputy Minister

In accordance with telegraphed instructions Mr. D. W. MacKay, Indian Commissioner for British Columbia, visited the Le Jas School to investigate the death of four Indian boys. I send herewith a copy of his report and transcript of the evidence taken.



Director of Indian Affairs.

Enclosure.

W.C. 0902-1137

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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163-1-23



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA



COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
P. O. BOX 666

VICTORIA, B.C., 15th March, 1937.....

W. H. ...
OUR REPLY REFER TO
NO. 46/48340.
ALSO TO DATE OF THIS LETTER

Dear Sir:-

With reference to your telegraphic instructions covering an investigation into the tragedy at Le Jac Indian Residential School on New Year's Day, I beg to inform you that the evidence taken at the inquiry is now being prepared and with a covering report will be submitted within the next few days.

Yours faithfully,

D. M. MacKay

D. M. MacKay.
Indian Commissioner for B. C.

DM/HN

Dr. H. W. McGill,
Director, Indian Affairs Branch,
Dept. of Mines and Resources,
OTTAWA, ONT.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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CASES OF SERVICE

DAY MESSAGES

DAY LETTERS

NIGHT MESSAGES

NIGHT LETTERS

File

DEPARTMENT 163-1-23

NATIONAL DEFENCE



RADIOTELEGRAPH SERVICE

ADMINISTERED BY DIRECTOR OF SIGNALS—OTTAWA

TELEGRAPH, CABLE
AND RADIO
CONNECTIONS
TO ALL PARTS OF
THE WORLD

NUMBER	SENT TO	SENT BY	REC'D BY	TIME SENT	TIME FILED	CHECK

SEND THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS ON THE BACK HEREOF:—

Major D. M. Mackay, Indian Commissioner,

February 17, 1937.

Victoria, B.C.

~~UNDERSTAND THERE IS LOCAL FEELING~~

~~OVER TRAGEDY WHEREBY FOUR INDIAN BOYS PERISHED AT LEJAG SCHOOL~~

~~NEW YEARS DAY STOP PLEASE INVESTIGATE FULLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.~~

H. W. McGill,

Director of Indian Affairs Branch.

H. W. McGill

Phoned by -

Rec'd by -

D. Sigs.—G. F. 4
IM pads of 100—6-33 (6534)
H.Q. 82-20-5

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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TELEGRAM

Department of the Interior

OTTAWA February 17th, 1937.

NIGHT LETTERGRAM.

Major D.M. MacKay

Understand there is local feeling over tragedy
whereby four Indian boys perished at Lejae School New Years day STOP Please
investigate fully as soon as possible.

H.W. MCGILL,^N
Director of Indian Affairs Branch.

Text of message furnished by Minister's Office.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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CANADA

R-COPY

163-1-23.

Ottawa, January 29, 1937.

Dear Sir:

The Department is in receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, enclosing copy of evidence taken at the Coroner's inquest into the death by freezing of the four boys from the Lejac Indian Residential School.

Yours truly,

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

R. H. Moore, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Vanderhoof, B.C.

RAH

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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CANADA

POOR-COPY

S-2-356.

163-1-23

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

OFFICE OF
INDIAN AGENT

[Handwritten signature]
Vanderhoof, B.C., January 18th. 1937.

Sir:-

As instructed by the Deputy Superintendent General in his day lettergram of even date I beg to attach hereto a copy of the evidence brought out at the Coroner's inquest into the deaths of the four boys from the Lejac Indian Residential School, by freezing. No stenographic report was taken but all the evidence was written down in long hand by the Coroner and submitted to the Provincial Constable; consequently I had to have copies made from his report as that was all that was available. Trusting that this is satisfactory for your requirements. Copy of the evidence is also being forwarded to the Indian Commissioner and the Inspector of Indian Agencies to complete their files on the matter as copies of all my other reports were sent to them too.

Your obedient servant,

[Handwritten signature]

R.H. Moore,
Indian Agent.

RHM/L.

The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont.

Enclosure.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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CANADA**

R-COPY



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Memorandum of an inquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of
Zaa Morris Jack....., Pupil No. 427.....
of the Lejac..... Indian Residential School at Lejac, B.C......,
who died at Lejac I. R. School..... (place) on February 16th. 1947.

INSTRUCTIONS

When a pupil of an Indian Residential School dies, the Principal is required to inform the Indian Agent at once.

On receipt of the Principal's notice the Indian Agent shall convene a Board of Inquiry, consisting of himself as Chairman, the Principal of the Residential School, and the Medical Officer who attended the deceased pupil. These members of the Board shall, in each other's presence, complete this memorandum, which shall then be forwarded to the Department of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, in one copy.

The Board of Inquiry shall, if at all practicable assemble within 48 hours of the pupil's death.

The parents or guardians of the deceased pupil shall be given notice of this inquiry and be permitted to attend it or to send a representative. They or their representative shall be asked if they wish to make a statement. In the event of their so wishing, their statement shall be attached to the report. The inquiry, however, shall not be delayed more than 72 hours after the time at which it would otherwise be held, to enable them to attend it.

If the Indian Agent is located at such a distance from the school as to make it impracticable for him to attend the Board, he shall request a responsible local resident to act for him. A suitable person for this duty would be a Justice of the Peace or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted or Provincial Police. A more or less permanent arrangement of this kind might be necessary in some cases. The Department is prepared to pay a reasonable fee for this duty, on the Agent's recommendation. The report of the Board, in any case, must reach the Department through the Indian Agent's office.

This inquiry is not designed to take the place of, or prevent, any other inquiry, including an inquest, which may be required by law.

If the pupil died as the result of an accident, the Indian Agent is required to take the statements of the witnesses of the accident, and attach them to this memorandum.

FORM No. 414.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

DOR-COPY

A. STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE RESIDENTIAL
SCHOOL

1. On what date did this pupil fall sick or ~~suffer injury~~? *Saturday, Feb. 15th*
2. At what time of day? *6.30 a.m.*
3. When and to whom did he or she report this illness or accident? *Sister Superior*
4. What means were taken to afford relief? *Sent to bed. Temp. 100*
5. What medicines were used for this purpose and in what dose or quantity?
Aspirin - 5 grs
6. When was the doctor called? *Sunday, 8.10 a.m.*
7. If the pupil was removed to hospital, at what time was this done and by what means of transport?
—
8. If the pupil was not removed to hospital, what measures were taken for his or her care at the school? *Under nurse's care in infirmary from 2 p.m. Sat.*
9. Add any other useful information here.
After change of bedding about 7.30 a.m. Sunday, boy re-lapsed into a coma and died at 8.15 a.m. before arrival of doctor.

Rev. Alex. R. Simpson, D.M.P.
Principal.

NOTE: If the deceased pupil dies in hospital at a distance from the school, under the care of the physician or surgeon who attends him at the hospital, a clinical report of the patient's illness and death in the hospital is to be secured and attached to this memorandum.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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CANADA

POOR-COPY

conducted on

B. STATEMENT OF THE PHYSICIAN WHO ~~ATTENDED~~
THE DECEASED PUPIL.

Enquiry of

I attended _____ from _____
to _____ The immediate cause of death was _____

*Profound Toxemia, Resulting From
Influenza.*

The contributory cause of death was _____

Do you consider that the Principal of the School, and the members of the School staff exercised reasonable care and judgment in regard to the illness and death of this pupil? *yes.*

Did they follow out your professional instructions? _____

If in either respect, you consider them to have been at fault, it is required that you express your carefully considered views as follows:

I was called to this case at the time of death, and can only report my conclusions as to cause of death after interogation witnesses, and consideration of all the evidence, which I recorded.

S. J. Dudley, M.D. M.D.
Coroner.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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CANADA

OR-COPY

C. STATEMENT OF INDIAN AGENT

1. Having heard and read over the statements of the Principal and the Physician, do you consider that all essential circumstances relating to the death of.....

Zar Morris Jack

have been recorded? Yes..... If not, you are required to add here any further particulars which strike you as essential.

2. In this space record any recommendations which the Board consider should be made to the Department in relation to the health or safety of the pupils of this School.

The death of this pupil was very sudden and unexpected. I feel that everything possible was done for him by the school staff.

I would recommend that an experienced and fully qualified graduate nurse be engaged for full time duty at the Lejac Residential School.



R. Howe
Chairman—Indian Agent.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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[CORONER.]



Information of Witnesses.

CANADA: }
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. }

County of - **Cariboo.**

To WIT: - **Mrs Edith Kidd, Nurse.**

INFORMATIONS of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, touching the death of - **ZAA MORRIS JACK** at **Lejac, B. C.**, in the Province of **British Columbia** in the County of **Cariboo**, on the **10th** day of **February**, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and **forty seven**, before me, **Stanley P. Findlay**, one of His Majesty's Coroners for the said County, on an Inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the said **Zaa Morris Jack**, then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:

Mrs Edith Kidd, Nurse, for the Indian Residential School

of the **Village** of **Lejac, B. C.**, in the said County

of **Cariboo** being sworn, saith: - The deceased Indian boy was moved to the boy's infirmary, into my care, on Saturday afternoon, Feb. the 15th/47. His illness appeared similar to the sickness of the (3) other boys already in the infirmary. On admission to the infirmary temp. was 101', pulse 96, and general condition was satisfactory. I saw the boy at 10 PM, and again at about 2 AM Sunday morning and up to this time I noticed nothing unusual about his condition. At 7:35 AM, Sunday morning, Feb. the 16th, I went to the door of the boy's ward, and spoke to the boys all of whom answered, except the deceased. At this time the eyes of the deceased was open, and he was quite conscious. At about 7:40 AM, I came back to the bed of the deceased, and observed that he had had involuntary bowel movements, and had also vomited in the bed, and the bed-clothes were badly soiled. I said to him "we'll have to get you out of this mess", and he put his legs out of the edge of the bed, and sat up. I put him into a chair, and pulled the chair to the bath-room, just adjoining the ward. Here I changed his night-shirt, while his bed was being cleaned up. Sister Rita, came into see if she could help, and stayed with the boy, while I went to the dispensary for a stimulant, for the patient. At about 8 AM Sister Michaelia came in and helped me put the boy back to bed. Father Callaly was called in at 8:05 and administered the last rights. While Father Callaly was giving the sacraments, I kept my hand on the pulse, and noticed it ceased to beat at between 8:05, & 8:10 AM. I had told Sister Michaelia to call Dr. Findlay first but Dr. Findlay was called at 8:15 AM, and arrived at the body of the deceased at 8:30 AM, and immediately listened for the heart beat but found the heart had stopped, & the boy was dead.

Mrs Edith Kidd, Nurse, Coroner.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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CANADA

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[CORONER.]



Information of Witnesses.

CANADA: }
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. }

County of - **Cariboo.**

To WIT: - **Sister Michaela, Superior.**

INFORMATIONS of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, touching the death of - **Zaa Morris Jack** at **Lejac, B. C.**, in the Province of **British Columbia** in the County of **Cariboo**, on the **16th**, day of **February**, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and **forty seven** before me, **Stanley P. Findlay**, one of His Majesty's Coroners for the said County, on an Inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the said **Zaa Morris Jack**, then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:

**Sister Michaela, Superior,
Lejac Indian Residential School,**

of the **Village** of **Lejac**, in the said County of **Cariboo**,

being sworn, saith, - On Saturday, Feb, the 15th/47, the deceased Indian boy, reported to me complaining of a headache. I gave an aspirin tablet to him, and sent him back to his bed, as he only appeared ill with the Influenza. I took his temp. and it was only 100', and his sickness seemed similar the other sick children also sick. At 2 PM the same day I brought the Indian boy over to the Infirmary, and the nurse, (Mrs Kidd), put the boy to bed. At about 8 AM, Sunday morning, Feb. the 16th, I went up to the Infirmary, because the nurse had not come to breakfast. I found the nurse administering Spirits of Ammonia to the deceased boy. I helped the nurse to put the boy back to bed. Then I called Father Callaly, and next called Dr. Findlay. This time was 8:15 AM.

Sister Michaela, Supr.
Per S.P. Findlay

★ 2M 1045-8903

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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CANADA**

POOR-COPY

[CORONER.]



Information of Witnesses.

CANADA: }
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. }

County of - **Cariboo.**

To WIT: - **Father John Callaly.**

INFORMATIONS of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, touching the death of **Zaa Morris Jack** at **Lejac, B. C.**, in the Province of **British Columbia** in the County of **Cariboo**, on the **16th.** day of **February**, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and **forty seven.** before me, **Stanley P. Findlay**, one of His Majesty's Coroners for the said County, on an Inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the said **Zaa Morris Jack**, then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:

Father John Callaly,
Lejac Indian Residential School

of the Village of **Lejac.**, in the said County of **Cariboo**

being sworn, saith, - I was called at about 8:05 AM, Feb. the 16th/47, to administer the Rites of the Catholic Church to the deceased Indian Boy. I noticed on arrival that the boy was very low, and after (5) minutes administering the Sacraments I felt for the boys pulse beat, but could not feel any pulse beat. I next opened one of the boy's eyes, and saw that the pupil did not move to light, and that it was fixed. All this time he lay perfectly still, and did not make any noise but just into a stuper, and died. The nurse stated that the boy had died while I was administering the sacraments. Dr. Findlay arrived at 8:30, and on listening for the heart beat, and finding the heart had ceased, pronounced the boy dead.

★ 2M 1045 8008

*Father J. Callaly,
by S.P.F., Coroner*

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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CANADA**

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"CORONERS ACT."
(Sec. 7, Subsecs. (2) and (3).)

(Coroner's Report Form of Inquiry.)

FRASER LAKE, B.C.

Feb. 20th, 1947.

Report of INQUIRY as to Cause of Death of

ZAA MORRIS JACK.

Age (13) Sex Male Birthplace Cheslatta Lake Reserve Date of death Feb. 18th/47.

Nationality Canadian Race Indian

Remarks - This Indian boy a pupil of the Lejac Indian Residential School, took sick at the school, on Saturday morning, Feb. the 15th/47, and reported to Sister Michaela, Superior, at about 6:30 AM. She gave the boy an aspirin for his headache, which was his chief complaint, and send him back to his bed. The same afternoon the diseased was moved from his bed to the boy's infirmary, to the care of the school Nurse, Mrs. Edith Kidd, at which time his temp. was 101', and his general condition was satisfactory. The nurse saw the boy at about 2 AM, Sunday morning, and he was all right. When the nurse again saw him at 7:35 AM, he was in a critical condition. Where found and died between 8:05, & 8:10 AM, at Lejac Residential School, Lejac, B.C.

Found by - The School-nurse, Mrs. Edith Kidd.

Post-mortem findings - No Post-Mortem was done.

Wounds, etc. - No wounds on body.

Address of deceased - Cheslatta Lake Indian Reserve.

Address of next of kin - Father, Tommy Jack.

Opinion of Coroner - I believe this Indian boy suffered from Intestinal Influenza, complicated with Toxemia, and Marked Prostration, and was in a critical condition when found by the nurse at 8:35 AM, Feb. the 18th. The sitting of the patient out of bed to change his night cloths, and also to change the soiled bedding added a further shock to the patient already in a state of collapse, and precipitated his death, as stated above between the time of 8:05, & 8:10 AM

Municipality or district responsible Dep't. of Indian Affairs, Stuart Lake Agency.

Undertaker Indian Relatives. Buried at Cheslatta Lake Indian Reserve.

Stanley P. Findley Coroner.
Stanley P. Findley, M.D., Coroner.

NOTE.—Depositions or statements of witnesses (if any) to be attached to this form.

* 3M-345-5666

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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L.J.C.
ET
M.I.

Lejac Indian Residential School

Under Direction of The Oblate Fathers

Lejac, B.C.

February 20th., 1947.

Statement of Mrs. E. Kidd, School Nurse, re the death of
Zaa Morris Jack, Sunday February 16th., 1947.

This boy was brought to the infirmary from the dormitory on Saturday afternoon around 4 p.m., apparently suffering from intestinal influenza, with the same symptoms as several other children who were sick at that time. His p.m. temperature was 101.

At 10 p.m. Saturday, and at 2 a.m. Sunday, I saw the boy and found nothing abnormal in his condition; he was apparently in the same condition as the other children in the infirmary. About 7.35 a.m. I found that he had soiled his bed and made arrangements to change the bed and his clothing. At 7.40 he was able to sit up and swing his legs over the side of the bed. He was moved to the bathroom, and then a sudden change took place in his condition, and an attempt was made to give him a stimulant, which he was unable to swallow. He was lifted back into bed in an apparently unconscious condition about 8 a.m.

The acting principal, Father Callaly was called at 8.05 at which time the boy still was living. The doctor was called about 8.15 a.m. by Sister Superior. During this time respiration and the pulse was no longer discernible. Dr. Findlay arrived at 8.30 a.m. and pronounced the boy dead.

This patient had exactly the same symptoms as had about 20 of the other pupils who were sick at the same time, viz, headache, pains in the abdomen and diarrhoea; and it was not until about an hour before death that any alarm was felt for him.

It is my opinion that all reasonable care was taken of this patient, and that everything possible was done for him.

(signed)

Edith E. Kidd

Mrs. E. Kidd,
School Matron.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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OFFICE OF THE
INDIAN AGENT



CANADA
DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

PLEASE QUOTE
FILE E-2-7

Stuart Lake Agency,
Vanderhoof, B.C.,
February 24th, 1947.

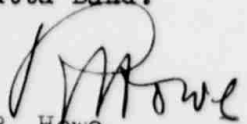
Department of Mines & Resources, Indian Affairs Branch,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

I regret to report the sudden death of Zar Morris Jack, pupil No. 427, which occurred at the Lejac Indian Residential School, February 16th last. In accordance with the Department's regulations, an inquiry was held into the cause of death. In this connection, I am enclosing herewith, the following documents:-

1. Completed Form No. 414, memorandum Inquiring into Cause of Death.
2. Copy of Coroner's Report Form of Inquiry, together with copies of information of Witnesses.
3. Statement of Mrs. E. Kidd, Lejac School Matron.

The death of this pupil was very sudden, and unexpected. I feel that under the circumstances, everything possible was done for him and that no blame can be attached to the Staff at the School.

The deceased is the son of Tom Jack, No. 9 of the Cheslatta Band.


R. Howe,
Indian Agent.

RH/jf
cc: Major D.M. MacKay.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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CANADA

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163-1-23 (WT 1)

Ottawa, March 5th, 1947.

Mr. R. Howe, Indian Agent,
Vanderhoof, B.C.

We have your letter of the 24th ult.,
enclosing memorandum of inquiry into the
cause and circumstances of the death of
Zar Morris Jack, pupil No. 427 of the LeJac
Residential School.

It is noted that you feel that under
the circumstances everything possible was
done by the school staff.

Bernard F. Neary
Supt. of Welfare & Training.

C

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Memorandum of an inquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of
..... Walter Carlick, Pupil No. 420.....
of the Lejac Indian Residential School at Lejac, B.C......,
who died at Lejac (place) on Dec. 5th 1949

INSTRUCTIONS

When a pupil of an Indian Residential School dies, the Principal is required to inform the Indian Agent at once.

On receipt of the Principal's notice the Indian Agent shall convene a Board of Inquiry, consisting of himself as Chairman, the Principal of the Residential School, and the Medical Officer who attended the deceased pupil. These members of the Board shall, in each other's presence, complete this memorandum, which shall then be forwarded to the Department of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, in one copy.

The Board of Inquiry shall, if at all practicable assemble within 48 hours of the pupil's death.

The parents or guardians of the deceased pupil shall be given notice of this inquiry and be permitted to attend it or to send a representative. They or their representative shall be asked if they wish to make a statement. In the event of their so wishing, their statement shall be attached to the report. The inquiry, however, shall not be delayed more than 72 hours after the time at which it would otherwise be held, to enable them to attend it.

If the Indian Agent is located at such a distance from the school as to make it impracticable for him to attend the Board, he shall request a responsible local resident to act for him. A suitable person for this duty would be a Justice of the Peace or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted or Provincial Police. A more or less permanent arrangement of this kind might be necessary in some cases. The Department is prepared to pay a reasonable fee for this duty, on the Agent's recommendation. The report of the Board, in any case, must reach the Department through the Indian Agent's office.

This inquiry is not designed to take the place of, or prevent, any other inquiry, including an inquest, which may be required by law

If the pupil died as the result of an accident, the Indian Agent is required to take the statements of the witnesses of the accident, and attach them to this memorandum.

FORM No. 414.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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CANADA

POOR-COPY

A. STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE RESIDENTIAL
SCHOOL

1. On what date did this pupil fall sick or suffer injury?..... December 4th 1949.....
2. At what time of day?..... 4 A.M.
3. When and to whom did he or she report this illness or accident?..... Reported to Mr.
George, the boys disciplinarian at 4 A.M. and asked to stay in bed
when the other children arose. Mr. George reported to the Principal
at 8 A.M.
4. What means were taken to afford relief?..... The nurse gave him immediate attention.
5. What medicines were used for this purpose and in what dose or quantity?..... Two Frosts #222
to relieve headache. A stimulant of Anacardon by injection was
given.
6. When was the doctor called?..... 7 A.M. Dec 5th
7. If the pupil was removed to hospital, at what time was this done and by what means of trans-
port?..... Doctor advised that pupil was too weak to move to hospital
thirty eight miles away.
8. If the pupil was not removed to hospital, what measures were taken for his or her care at the
school?..... Doctor Findlay was called and he called for Doctor Mooney
to hold consultation and bring further aids .
9. Add any other useful information here.
His temperature dropped ~~xx~~ to 100 on Sunday evening Dec. 4th and
there seemed no cause for alarm at that time. However on the
morning of the 5th there was a distinct change for the worse
and there had been extensive diarrhoea. The doctor was called.

J. Mulvihill P.M.
Principal.

NOTE: If the deceased pupil dies in hospital at a distance from the school, under the care of the physician or surgeon who attends him at the hospital, a clinical report of the patient's illness and death in the hospital is to be secured and attached to this memorandum.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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OR-COPY

**B. STATEMENT OF THE PHYSICIAN WHO ATTENDED
THE DECEASED PUPIL**

I attended Walter Carlick from 11:00 AM, Dec. 5th/49,
to 2:15 PM, Dec. 5th/49 The immediate cause of death was.....

..... Fulminating Toxaemia .

The contributory cause of death was Epidemic Diarrhoea .

Do you consider that the Principal of the School, and the members of the School staff exer-
cised reasonable care and judgment in regard to the illness and death of this pupil?..... Yes...

Did they follow out your professional instructions?..... Yes .

If in either respect, you consider them to have been at fault, it is required that you express
your carefully considered views as follows:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

S. P. Findley M.D.
Dr. S. P. Findley,
Fraser Lake, B. C.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA**

DOR-COPY

C. STATEMENT OF INDIAN AGENT

1. Having heard and read over the statements of the Principal and the Physician, do you consider that all essential circumstances relating to the death of.....

Pupil Walter Carlick

have been recorded? Yes If not, you are required to add here any further particulars which strike you as essential.

2. In this space record any recommendations which the Board consider should be made to the Department in relation to the health or safety of the pupils of this School.

This pupil was taken ill very suddenly, and everything possible was done by the school staff and Doctor Findlay for him. Dr. Mooney was also called from Vanderhoof for consultation and advice.


Chairman—Indian Agent.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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PLEASE QUOTE

FILE...23-7-163



CANADA

DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

3763

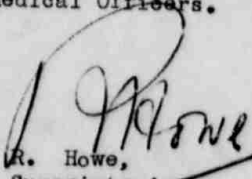
Stuart Lake Agency,
Vanderhoof, B. C.,
January 9th, 1950

Indian Affairs Branch, Department of Mines and Resources, OTTAWA.

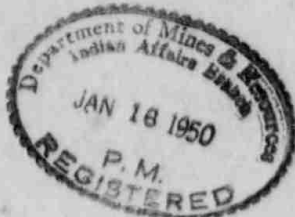
Re: Walter Carlick, Deceased, Pupil No.
420, Lejac Residential School

I regret to advise that the above named pupil, a member of the Stikine Agency, died at the Lejac School on the 5th of December, 1949, following a very brief illness.

I am enclosing herewith, Form No. 414, and also wish to advise that a Coroner's inquiry was held into the youths death. It was found he died from Natural causes and that everything possible was done for him by the School Staff and Medical Officers.


R. Howe,
Superintendent

RH:sj
cc: Superintendent,
Indian Agency,
TELEGRAPH CREEK B. C.



Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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881-23 (E1)

January 18th, 1950.

Mr. R. Howe,
Superintendent, Indian Agency,
Vanderhoof, B.C.

Re: Lejac Indian Residential School
Your File 23-7-163

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 9th instant enclosing memorandum of an inquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of Walter Carlick, Pupil #420.

PP

[Signature]

PP/ST

Bernard F. Neary,
Supt. of Indian Education

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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