



Northwest
Territories Minister of Education

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY STAFF

1955 Indian Education Agreement

I would like to provide you with a copy of the 1955 Indian Education Agreement, and the results of some research prepared by Ms. Lesley Allen concerning this agreement on behalf of the Department of Education.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Patterson".

Dennis Patterson
Minister

Enclosure

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT made in duplicate this 10th day of February 1956

B E T W E E N:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN in the right of Canada as represented by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (hereinafter called "the Minister")

OF THE FIRST PART

- and -

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (hereinafter called "the Commissioner")

OF THE SECOND PART

WHEREAS under authority of the Indian Act, the Minister may, subject to the authorization of the Governor in Council, enter into an Agreement with the Commissioner, providing for the education in accordance with the Indian Act of Indian children in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS it has been agreed between the parties hereto that centralization of the administration of education in the Northwest Territories will bring about increased economy and efficiency;

AND WHEREAS the Governor in Council has by Order in Council P.C. 1954-1898, dated 1st December, 1954, authorized the Minister and the Commissioner to execute this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, this Agreement witnesseth that the Minister and the Commissioner agree as follows:

1. The Commissioner agrees to
 - (a) provide for the education of Indian children in the Northwest Territories in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Act and to provide the facilities therefor;
 - (b) provide educational facilities in accordance with paragraph (a) of a standard equal to the educational facilities available to other residents of the North-

west Territories;

(c) ensure that there will be no segregation of children on account of race in any school in which Indian children are educated;

(d) submit to the Minister copies of all inspection reports of schools in the Northwest Territories at which Indian children attend, and copies of all annual reports dealing with education in the Northwest Territories.

2. The parties agree that the present arrangement between the Commissioner and the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources shall continue whereby the Department provides buildings, equipment, supplies and staff for the administration of education in the Northwest Territories, and the Commissioner pays to the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources for the cost of education of children who are the responsibility of the Government of the Northwest Territories, and that no portion of the cost of educating Indian children in the Northwest Territories shall be borne by the Commissioner.

3.(1) The parties agree to establish a Committee on Indian education in the Northwest Territories, which shall be composed of the following members:-

Chairman - Director of Indian Affairs,
Department of Citizenship and
Immigration.

Member - Superintendent of Education,
Department of Citizenship and
Immigration.

Member - Superintendent of Education,
Department of Northern Affairs
and National Resources.

Member - Chief, Territorial Division,
Department of Northern Affairs
and National Resources.

The Minister and the Commissioner may substitute alternate members as representatives to attend meetings of such committee

as may be necessary from time to time. The duties of the committee shall be as follows:-

- (a) to recommend standards of education for Indian children in the Northwest Territories;
- (b) to recommend the establishment of bursaries for vocational training and higher education for Indian children in the Northwest Territories, and to approve the selection of Indian children for higher education through such bursaries for vocational training;
- (c) to arrange for such surveys as may from time to time be considered necessary into the costs of operation of day schools and residential schools operated by an agency other than the Commissioner and to recommend the rates of payment by the Commissioner for Indian children educated in such schools;
- (d) to arrange for such investigations as may be necessary from time to time and to recommend the construction of new schools or additions to existing schools at which Indian children will be educated in the Northwest Territories, and to recommend from time to time the closing of any existing schools;
- (e) to recommend standards of qualifications for teachers, and revision of salaries;
- (f) to consider any special report of school inspectors and the annual report of the Superintendent of Education of the Northwest Territories, and recommend changes and improvements in the administration of education in the Northwest Territories as may affect Indian education;
- (g) to consider any matter dealing with education of Indians in the Northwest Territories which may

be referred to it by the parties hereto.

- (2) If, in any case, the Commissioner does not agree with a recommendation of the Committee in respect of a matter which relates to the provision of education as laid down in the Indian Act, he will consult with the Minister, whose views with regard to the requirements of the Indian Act shall be final.

4. The Minister agrees to make available without charge to the Commissioner on the 1st of April, 1955, the school buildings, equipment, residences and other buildings now owned and operated by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration for education of Indians in the Northwest Territories.

5. No Indian children shall be admitted to residential schools owned and operated by a religious or charitable organization or to hostels provided for their accommodation without the approval of the Minister.

6. The Committee referred to in clause 3 shall recommend to the Commissioner such regulations as it considers necessary, under the School Ordinance governing the operation of residential schools.

7. The parties agree that in addition to the appointment of the Committee mentioned in paragraph 3 of this Agreement, the employees of the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, and the employees of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, who are responsible for the administration of the education of Indians and other Canadians in the Northwest Territories, will continue to co-operate towards the improvement of administration of education in the Northwest Territories by every means at their disposal.

8. The Minister agrees to take the necessary action when so requested by the Commissioner to transfer to the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources the teachers, welfare teachers, caretakers, and other employees of the Government of Canada in the Northwest Territories who are at the time of entering into this agreement employed in Indian educational services in the Northwest Territories. The Commissioner agrees to recommend to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources that such Government employees presently transferred from the Department of Citizenship and Immigration continue to be employed by the Government of Canada with the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.
9. This agreement may be cancelled at the end of any fiscal year by either party giving notice of such cancellation at least twelve months prior to the day on which such cancellation is to take effect.
10. Subject to the approval of the Commissioner in Council of the Northwest Territories this agreement will take effect on the first day of April, 1955.

DATED at Ottawa this 1st day of April 1955.

[Signature]
(Witness)

[Signature]
Minister of Citizenship & Immigration

M. J. Murphy
(Witness)

[Signature]
Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

**THE AGREEMENT FOR THE EDUCATION OF INDIAN CHILDREN IN THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES 1955.**

**A Review Of The Documents Leading Up To This Agreement.
Public Archives of Canada, Records of the Department of Resources and
Development, RG 22, vol. 324, file 40-10-7, Interdepartmental Committee
on Indian Education. December 1953 to November 1955.**

LESLEY ALLEN

APRIL 23, 1987.

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY
YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.

Table of Contents

Section One	Page
Background	3
The Agreement	4
The Five-Year Plan	6
 Section Two	
The People Involved In The Agreement	8
A Review Of The Documents	9
Reference	19
Appendix	

Background

Prior to the Agreement for the Education of Indian Children in the Northwest Territories 1955, education in the Northwest Territories was under the jurisdiction of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration for Indians, the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources for Inuit and the Government of the Northwest Territories for others (non-Inuit). The Department of Citizenship and Immigration was responsible for ten Federal Day schools in the Northwest Territories and additional per capita grants of \$35 per Indian pupil were paid to Church-owned residential schools. The Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources had ten schools in the Territories and was planning to construct one more in 1955. This Department paid a \$400 grant to Church-owned residential schools for Inuit education.

The education of "others" was extremely complicated. Some pupils were educated in Yellowknife at the two schools and the costs involved were covered by taxes and grants. Some were educated at Mission schools and the grants were paid by the Territorial government. Some were educated at mining schools and the mining companies and the Territorial government shared the costs. Finally, some were educated in Federal Day schools and the Territorial government reimbursed the Federal government on a basis of \$345 per year per pupil.

The Mission schools, in the Northwest Territories, were equally intriguing. There were 33 Mission schools, 4 operated at Mission Hospitals, 4 were Mission Residential schools and 25 were Mission day schools. In the case of Mission Hospital schools, the Federal government provided the school supplies and teachers' salaries. For the Mission Residential schools, the Federal government provided grants for maintenance, tuition and school supplies. In the Mission Day schools, the Federal government provided school supplies and tuition grants. The estimated cost of

education in the Northwest Territories for 1955-56, by the Federal government, was \$842,894. The complexity of the educational problems and administrative difficulties necessitated a long term solution. In an attempt to consolidate northern educational services, the Agreement of 1955 was conceived.

The Agreement for the Education of Indian Children

In December 1953, it was recommended that the Northern Administration and Lands Branch of the Department of Resources and Development should meet with the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration to discuss education in the north. A committee of six members was established to examine the grant system and the administration of personnel. The members of that committee were: Mr. Jackson, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Jacobson, representing the Northern Administration and Lands Branch and Major Davey, Colonel Fortier and Colonel Jones, representing the Indian Affairs Branch. The committee began work in January 1954.

An informal agreement was reached in 1953 between Northern Administration and Lands Branch and Indian Affairs Branch whereby the latter would fill requisitions for those schools in which the majority of children were Indian and Northern Administration and Lands Branch would fill requisitions in which the majority of children were their responsibility. A similar informal agreement was made with respect to the division of administrative responsibility for teachers instructing both Eskimos and Indians in hospitals. As a temporary measure, in 1954, the Committee agreed that Northern Administration and Lands Branch would assume all financial costs incurred in rendering assistance to those mission schools wherein the majority of children were their responsibility.

The Committee realized that the best means of improving the situation in the north was for one department to accept administrative responsibility for all schools in the Northwest Territories. It was proposed that Northern Administration and Lands Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources should assume responsibility for northern education. This proposal would provide for the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources to pay for all the costs of education of all children in such schools and then, recover in arrears from Indian Affairs Branch, annually, a sum of money calculated to cover the costs of the education of Indian children in such schools. Some of the advantages of such a proposal were: higher standards of education and personnel, reduced confusion of dual administration, more effective control over schools and programs and greater efficiency and effectiveness. There was a strong desire to simplify and rationalize administrative arrangements for education in the Territories. Great care was taken throughout the course of the Agreement to meet the legal obligations outlined in the Indian Act.

On September 17, 1954, a new proposal was suggested which would do away with the scheme to have the costs of education of Indian children paid by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. Instead, the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources would bear the costs of Indian education in the Northwest Territories. The Agreement would stipulate that the costs of Indian education would be the responsibility of the Federal government. A study of the educational arrangements in the North was undertaken.

On December 1, 1954, Order in Council P.C. 1954-1898 was passed concerning the transfer the administration of Indian schools in the Northwest Territories to the Department of Northern Affairs and National

Resources. An Ordinance to Authorize the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories to enter into an agreement with the Government of Canada respecting the Education of Indians was assented to on January 27, 1955.

On February 14, 1955, the Agreement for the Education of Indian children in the Northwest Territories was signed. Ten schools and approximately 500 Indians (25% of the school population) were affected by this Agreement. A Committee of four members was established to oversee Indian education in the north. No further information is provided in the file 40-10-7 regarding their contribution. However, the duties of the Committee are clearly outlined in the 1955 Agreement.

The Five-Year Plan

A five-year northern educational plan was designed by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. This plan concentrated on primary education, vocational training and hostel construction and associated day school facilities. It was clear that residential facilities were needed as a result of the "migratory tradition" of the Native people. Centralized schooling would become a reality in the north. The hostels would be constructed in the Mackenzie Valley and while built by the Department, the operation of these hostels would be turned over to either the Roman Catholic Church or the Anglican Church. The Churches would be paid grants per pupil. Bishop Marsh of the Church of England and Bishop Trocellier of the Catholic Church agreed to these proposals. Day schools associated with these hostels would be enlarged. The proposed locations

for the hostels were: Fort Smith	1 hostel	Roman Catholic
Fort Simpson	1 hostel	Roman Catholic
	1 hostel	Anglican
Fort MacPherson	1 hostel	Anglican
Aklavik	1 hostel	Anglican
	1 hostel	Roman Catholic

In the Fort Smith and Aklavik schools, grades 7-12, vocational and specialized subjects would be taught. There would be no separation of students according to religion in the higher grades. It was also recommended that vocational training schools should be established in Yellowknife and Aklavik in the near future and in Frobisher Bay (Iqaluit) at a later date. * This plan was revised when the decision to move Aklavik was made.

The Agreement for the Education of Indian Education in the Northwest Territories is an important landmark in the history of education in the Northwest Territories. The conception of this Agreement is chronologically outlined in the next section.

*The information for this section was obtained from:
Public Archives of Canada, Records of the Department of Resources and Development, RG 22, vol. 324, file 40-10-7, Interdepartmental Committee on Indian Education. December 1953 to November 1955, Submission To His Excellency The Governor General in Council, 17 November 1954 and Draft Memorandum for the Cabinet: Education Program in the Northwest Territories, 23 February 1955.

The following people were the key players in the formation of the Agreement for the Education of Indian Children in the Northwest Territories.

The Department of Citizenship and Immigration

W. Harris - Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (1953- 1955)
J. W. Pickersgill - Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (1955)
Col. L. Fortier - Deputy Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
Col. H. M. Jones - Director of Indian Affairs
Major R. F. Davey - Superintendent of Education of Indian Affairs

**The Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources
(Previously, the Department of Resources and Development -1953)**

J. Lesage - Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources
R. G. Robertson - Deputy Minister
Mr. Jackson - Assistant Deputy Minister
F.J.G. Cunningham - Director of the Northern Administration and Lands
Branch
F. Fraser - Acting Director (late 1954-1955)
J. V. Jacobson - Superintendent of Education Northern Administration
Division

Dec. 1 1953 In a submission to the Cabinet, regarding assistance for education in the N.W.T. , it was recommended by the Minister of the Department of Resources and Development that his department should discuss education in the N.W.T. with the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. Ibid., Note for File by R.G.Robertson, 4 Dec. 1953.

Dec. 3 1953 A memorandum was issued which asked the Cabinet to waive the November 1951 decision that the Territorial government pay the cost of educating children for which it was responsible by means of annual operating grants. The Cabinet was asked to waive this decision, in so far that it affected education grants, in order that consideration could be given to a proposal that teachers in mission schools be paid as Federal civil servants. Ibid., Note for File, R.G.R 18 Dec. 1953.

Dec. 17 1953 Approval was given for the establishment of a committee of six to look at northern education. Ibid., Memorandum for the Minister, R.G.R., 17 Dec. 1953

The two main issues to be discussed were:
1. that teachers in mission schools in the N.W.T. where Eskimos were educated should be paid by the Department and 2. that the old system of grants should be modified.

Members of the committee identified by the Minister of Resources and Development were :

Mr. Jackson - Assistant Deputy Minister

Mr. Cunningham - Director of Northern Administration & Lands Branch

Mr. J.V. Jacobson - Superintendent of Education Services

Ibid., Lesage to Harris, 17 Dec. 1953.

Cabinet agreed that effective September 1, 1954, teachers employed at Department-owned Indian residential schools would be paid and appointed by Indian Affairs Branch in the same manner as teachers in Indian Day schools. Eighteen Church-owned residential schools were not covered by this decision. Ibid., Memorandum for Mr. Jackson, R.G.R., 29 Dec. 1953. PAC RG 22 vol. 324 Cabinet Doc. 342/53 17 Dec. 1953.

Jan. 5 1954

The members from the Department of Citizenship and Immigration appointed to the Interdepartmental Committee were:

Mr. Fortier - Deputy Minister

Col. H. M. Jones - Director of Indian Affairs

Major R. F. Davey - Superintendent of Education of Indian Affairs

The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, W. Harris, indicated that the Interdepartmental Committee should consider the more general issues of policy and administration and not deal solely the present system of grants. Ibid., Harris to Lesage, 5 Jan. 1954

Jan. 11 1954

The Committee was to begin work on January 19, 1954. There was complete agreement that the Committee was not restricted to the subject of grants but should in fact discuss matters related to the treatment of Indians and Eskimos that were of common interest to the two departments. Ibid., Lesage to Harris, 11 Jan. 1954

Jan. 19 1954

The first meeting of the Interdepartmental Committee was held. It was decided that more information was needed regarding actual expenditures made by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and Indian Affairs. Information was gathered for the schools in the MacKenzie District. These schools were:
Fort Smith - Roman Catholic Day School
Fort Simpson - Roman Catholic Day School
Fort Providence - Roman Catholic Residential School
Fort Resolution - Roman Catholic Residential School
Aklavik - Roman Catholic Residential School
Aklavik - Anglican Residential School.

Feb. 3 1954

A Statement of Assistance to N.W.T. Mission Schools for 1953-1954 was compiled by Mr. Jacobson and Major Davey. PAC, RG 22, vol. 324, file 40-10-7 Memorandum, Cunningham, 3 Feb. 1954.

An informal agreement was made regarding the division of administrative responsibility for teachers instructing both Eskimos and Indians in hospitals.

This agreement stated that the responsibility for the engagement of teachers should fall to the department which had the greater number of patients in that hospital. Ibid., Jones to Cunningham, 3 Feb. 1953.

Feb. 12 1954

A Memorandum for the Assistant Deputy Minister was drawn up regarding the division of administrative responsibility for education in hospitals. Ibid., Memorandum, Cunningham, 12 Feb. 1954.

Feb. 18 1954

The information required by the Interdepartmental Committee was submitted in the form of Tables showing the extent to which assistance was given to Mission Schools in the MacKenzie District by the Federal and Territorial Government. Ibid., Memorandum for Assistant Deputy Minister, Cunningham, 18 Feb. 1954.

Colonel Jones, Major Davey, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Sivertz and Mr. Jackson discussed the respective responsibility of the two Departments (particularly the proposal to have Federal teachers at all schools). Also, the proposal that Indian Affairs Branch should turn over to Northern Affairs and National Resources (which would include the Territorial Government) the responsibility of the education of the Indians in the N.W.T. Such an arrangement was provided for in the Indian Act Section 113 (b) (ii). The religious rights would be protected by Sections 117, 120 & 121 of the Indian Act.

"It would be a simple matter of accounting to charge the Indian Affairs Branch for the Indian children who received education based on the overall cost. In this way, the estimates of the Indian Affairs Branch would still show the cost of administering Indian Affairs." Ibid. Memorandum for the Deputy Minister, Jackson, 23 Feb. 1954.

March 15 1954

In a Memorandum to Mr. Jackson, R. G. Robertson outlined four alternatives to deal with education in the N.W.T. These were: 1. Northern Affairs and National Resources take over the responsibility for all schools in the N.W.T. and collect from the Department of Citizenship and Immigration in arrears for education of Indian children,
2. Northern Affairs and National Resources take over responsibility for grants etc., for all mission schools in the N.W.T. and collect from the Department of Citizenship and Immigration in arrears for education of Indian children. The Department of Citizenship and Immigration would continue to operate the eight Indian Day Schools,
3. Failing 1 and 2, a new plan of grants to mission schools would be instituted with Northern Affairs and National Resources and Citizenship and Immigration each paying their share but on the same individual basis, and
4. Continue as the two departments were operating. Ibid. Memorandum to Mr. Jackson from R.G. Robertson, 15 March 1954.

March 24 1954

Robertson and Fortier discussed the need for a long term solution to education in the N.W.T. The Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources indicated that a long term solution was desirable. Fortier felt that any long term solution must meet the legal obligations of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration under the Indian Act. Under Section 113, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration may enter into agreement for the education of Indian children with the government of the Council of the N.W.T. Robertson pointed out that Councils were limited to legislative powers and had no control over the administration. However, under the Interpretation Act the provision

for agreements with the provinces would cover agreements with the government of the two Territories. The Federal government would actually handle the operation of schools in the N.W.T. There was a strong desire to simplify and rationalize administrative arrangements for education in the Territories. Ibid., Memorandum for Mr. Jackson, R.G. Robertson, 23 March 1954.

March 23 1954 It was decided that the Interdepartmental Committee should concentrate on an over-all arrangement for education of the Territories and drop the present work on education grants. Ibid., Robertson to Fortier, 23 March 1954.

April 3 1954 Approval was given by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration to continue discussions on a long term solution to education in the N.W.T. Ibid., Fortier to Robertson, 3 April 1954.

May 16 1954 In preliminary discussions between Jacobson, Superintendent of Education of the N.W.T. and Davey, Superintendent of Education, Indian Affairs, it was suggested that an agreement be drawn up between the Department of Citizenship and Immigration and the Government of the N.W.T. This agreement would:

1. be effective April 1, 1955,
2. supply educational facilities for Indian children in the N.W.T. by the Commissioner,
3. ensure that all provisions of the Indian Act were complied with,
4. allow no segregation of children in schools on account of race, and
5. have the Department of Citizenship and Immigration pay to the Commissioner the cost of educating Indian children, based on actual costs. The agreement was to cover only education in the N.W.T.

Ibid., Memorandum for the Assistant Deputy Minister, Cunningham, 16 May 1954.

June 4 1954 The first draft of the Agreement for the Education of Indian Children in the Northwest Territories was drawn in

- June 14 1954** In a meeting with Fraser, Jones and Davey, the draft was revised.
- June 17 1954** The draft of the Agreement between the Department of Citizenship and Immigration and the Commissioner of the N.W.T. was reviewed. Ibid., Memorandum for Mr. Jackson, Fraser, 17 June 1954.
- June 21 1954** A copy of the draft was sent to R.G. Robertson.
- July 21 1954** A copy of the draft was sent to Mr. Lesage.
- July 27 1954** More modifications were made by both Departments. Ibid., Jones to Cunningham, 27 July 1954.
- August 6 1954** The draft Agreement was revised.
- August 9 1954** Jones concurred on the amendments of August 6, 1954.
- August 12 1954** A draft of the Minute to Council was circulated for comments between the two Departments. Ibid., Memorandum for the Acting Deputy Minister, Cunningham, 12 August 1954.
-
- August 27 1954** Jones and Fortier discussed the draft agreement dated June 14 1954. Ibid., Memorandum for File, Jones, 27 August 1954.
- Sept. 17 1954** A new proposal was suggested which would do away with the scheme to have the Department of Citizenship fund the education of Indian children in the N.W.T. It seemed more logical to have the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources be responsible for both administration and funding. See attached letter 17 September 1954. Ibid., Robertson to Fortier, 17 September 1954.
- Sept. 29 1954** Revision of the draft Agreement
- Fortier agreed with the proposed modification of the draft Agreement. Ibid., Fortier to Robertson, 29 September 1954.

- A redraft of the Agreement incorporated the changes agreed upon by Robertson and Fortier regarding funding of Indian education. Ibid., Memorandum for Deputy Minister, Cunningham, 29 Sept. 1954
- Oct. 12 1954 Nason, the legal Advisor, looked at the Agreement and suggested several minor changes. Ibid., Memorandum for Assistant Deputy Minister, Nason, 12 October 1954
- Oct. 20 1954 The new draft was released that incorporated the changes mentioned in the Sept. 17, 1954 letter (sub paragraph(a) of section 8 was deleted. Ibid., Robertson to Fortier, 20 October 1954
- Oct. 26 1954 A thorough study of the educational arrangements in the North was undertaken and would be completed by February 1955. Few details of this study were included in the file 40-10-7. Ibid., Lesage to Right Reverend Trocellier O.M.I., 26 October 1954
- Oct. 29 1954 The new draft was accepted by Fortier. Ibid., Fortier to Robertson, 29 October 1954
- Nov. 9 1954 The draft of the Submission to Council was released for comments. Ibid., Cunningham, 10 November 1954
- Nov. 10 1954 The draft was approved by Northern Affairs and National Resources. Ibid., Memorandum for the Deputy Minister, Cunningham, 10 November 1954
- Nov. 17 1954 The two Departments made a joint Submission to Council of the Agreement for the Education of Indian Children in the Northwest Territories.
- Dec. 1 1954 Cabinet agreed that administration of Indian schools in the N.W.T. should be transferred to the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and that the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration should enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of the N.W.T. for the education of Indian children. Subsequently Order in Council P.C. 1954-1898 was passed - dated December 1 1954 Ibid., Note for File, Robertson, 15 December 1954

- Dec. 2 1954** Officers of the Privy Council staff suggested that two points needed clarification. These two points were: 1. the question of the transfer of lands and buildings from the Department of Citizenship and Immigration to the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. (It would be necessary to make a further submission to allow for this transfer.) and 2. Section 8 of the Agreement which involved the transfer of personnel - There was some question as to whether those being transferred were actually part of the Civil Service of Canada. (It was a technical point.) ibid., Robertson to Cunningham, 2 December 1954.
- Dec. 15 1954** A draft Ordinance was drawn up, authorizing the Commissioner of the N.W.T. to enter into an agreement with Her Majesty The Queen, represented by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Order in Council P.C. 1954-1898 of 1 December 1954. ibid., Robertson to Deputy Minister of Justice, 15 December 1954.
- The Lands Division requested that Indian Affairs Branch provide a complete list of the lands on which school buildings were situated in the N.W.T. A Minute to Council recommended a transfer of these lands from the Department of Citizenship and Immigration to the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Also, paragraph 8 of the Agreement was changed to read "other employees of the Government of Canada". An Ordinance was drafted and would be presented in January 1955. ibid., Memorandum for Deputy Minister, Cunningham, 15 December 1954.
- Dec. 28 1954** A draft Press release was circulated for comments regarding the Ordinance. ibid., Baxter to Phillips, 28 December 1954.
- Jan. 17 1955** Robertson requested from Mr. Fraser, Acting Director, Northern Administration, the following: cost figures of various educational items, the Indian Act requirements and the extent to which they were being met, information concerning the present (1954-55) school

policy and program of Indian Affairs and general information on Indian education in the N.W.T.

Robertson had an agreement with Bishop Marsh regarding education programs in the north and was negotiating with Bishop Trocellier for a similar northern educational agreement. Ibid., Memorandum for Fraser from R.G. Robertson, 17 Jan. 1955.

Jan. 27 1955

An Ordinance to Authorize the Commissioner of the N.W.T. to enter into an agreement with the Government of Canada respecting the Education of Indians was assented to on January 27, 1955.

Feb. 11 1955

In a letter to the Deputy Minister, Fraser reported that draft blueprints of proposed schools were being prepared in order that estimated figures would be realistic. He indicated that under the Indian Act, Indian children, between the ages of 7-16, were required to attend school. There were 425 Indian children attending school from an Indian school age population of 1097. There were 327 Eskimo children attending school full time and 400 attending part-time from an Eskimo school age population of 2116 (727/2116). Finally, the policy of Indian Affairs Branch was to discourage construction of residential schools and hostels by Church authorities. Instead, Indian Affairs Branch felt that these educational facilities should be constructed by the Federal government and then turned over to the mission authorities for operation. The average cost per pupil was \$345 per year (excluding boarding costs). Ibid., Fraser to Deputy Minister, 11 Feb. 1955.

Feb. 14 1955

The Agreement for the Education of Indian Children in the N.W.T. was signed by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, J.W. Pickersgill and the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, R. G. Robertson. A committee on Indian education in the Northwest Territories was established. This committee was composed of a chairman and three members.

The Director of Indian Affairs, Department of Citizenship and Immigration was designed as the Chairman and the three members were the Superintendent of Education, Department of Citizenship and Immigration, the Superintendent of Education, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and the Chief, Territorial Division, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Ibid., Pickergill to Lesage, 14 February 1955.

- Feb. 16 1955 A directive regarding the transfer of staff, arrangements for the take over of buildings and a description of land was issued.
- Feb. 23 1955 A draft Memorandum for the Cabinet was prepared.
- Feb. 28 1955 The necessary action needed for the early transfer of employees mentioned in Section 8 to Northern Affairs and National Resources was initiated. Ibid., Robertson to Wimberley, 28, February 1955.
- A program to provide primary education to Indian and Eskimo children over a five year period of time was implemented. The decline in the caribou population and the realization that native people could not longer rely "on a native way of life" reinforced the belief that the emphasis should be on primary education and technical and vocational training. Ibid., Lesage to Pickergill, 4 March 1955.
- June 14 1955 The question of religion for Indian children was clarified by Robertson. He stated that the Agreement between the Commissioner and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration did not require that education be provided on a denominational basis. Ibid., Memorandum for the Minister, Robertson, 14 June 1955.
- June 23 1955 The transfer of control and management of lands from the Department Citizenship and Immigration to the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, with respect to Indian education in the Northwest Territories, was approved. P.C. 1955-917, 23 June 1955.

Reference

Public Archives of Canada, Records of the Department of Resources and Development, RG 22, vol. 324, file 40-10-7, Interdepartmental Committee on Indian Education. December 1953 to November 1955.

40-10-7
ROB/AM
Ltr. D. N. A. 21/11/54
To Col. Fortier
B. J. [Signature]
[Signature]
Ottawa, 17 September, 1954.
40-10-7
Indexed by [Signature]

Colonel Laval Fortier,
Deputy Minister of Citizenship and Immigration,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Colonel Fortier,

I should like to refer to our telephone conversation of this morning concerning the draft agreement to provide for the education of Indian children in the Northwest Territories. I think we are completely in agreement on the character of the modifications that might be made in the draft agreement as it now stands and my understanding is that you will bring them before your Minister for approval in the near future. As you pointed out this morning it is clearly desirable that we should try to settle this matter immediately, so that the necessary adjustments can be made in our respective departmental estimates.

With regard to the estimates one point we discussed was the question whether it would not be preferable to do away with the scheme now contemplated in the draft agreement under which the costs of education of Indian children in the Northwest Territories would continue to be payable by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. I think we are both agreed that it is difficult to see any merit in this scheme. Whether your department or this one pays the costs seems to be entirely immaterial since it would be the federal government making the expenditure in either case. If your department defrays the cost it is necessary to establish a very elaborate accounting system in order to work out per pupil costs of education for each and every Indian child in each and every school. One has only to look at the draft agreement to see how complicated this is. It would require a good deal of man power, considerably complicate the whole arrangement, and, so far as I can see, to no practical purpose. The only advantage in having the costs payable by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration is that the estimates of the Indian Affairs branch

would then reflect the total cost of Indian administration in Canada. I do not see that that technical advantage is worth the difficulty that would be created. It would always be possible for figures to be kept here of the number of Indians educated and to work out the appropriate costs in order that reasonably accurate statistics could be provided for whatever purposes your department might have in mind. One final point, I think, is that a system in which education was arranged for and provided by one department and paid for by another could, at some point, give rise to differences of view. It might well be felt at some time by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration that overly elaborate provision was being made and that costs were being incurred that were not necessary. I think the principle is sound of trying to have expenses paid by the department that has charge of any particular operation. You were, I think, in agreement with all the above points. If your minister also agrees, I would suggest that we should get in touch with the Treasury Board officials immediately in order that the estimates for the fiscal year 1955-56 could be adjusted accordingly.

If it is agreed that the costs of Indian education in the Northwest Territories shall be borne in this department, it would appear that the following sections of the draft agreement could be deleted: Section 1 (d), (e), (f), and (h); Section 4; Section 5 (except the categories of schools which may be wanted for other purposes); Section 7; possibly Section 8 (b) (although not, I should think, Section 8 (a)); Section 10.

It would be necessary to insert a new clause to make it clear that the costs of Indian education would not fall on the Northwest Territories but would be borne by the federal government. I think such a clause could be worked out fairly easily and would not create any complication since, as you know, education in the Northwest Territories, in general, is actually financed in the first instance by the federal government and it receives payment from the Northwest Territories for the portion of the cost that is properly attributable to the Territorial Government.

The above paragraph relates to changes that are dependent on the decision whether the estimates will remain in the Department of Citizenship and Immigration or come to this department. There are other modifications in the agreement which we discussed and which are not dependent on that decision. They are the following:

Section 1 (b)

The words "and in accordance with the recommendations by the Interdepartmental Committee referred to in Section 2" be deleted.

Section 2

The present section becomes Subsection 1.

A new subsection 2 be added to the following effect:

"If in any case the Commissioner does not agree with a recommendation of the Committee in respect of a matter that relates to the provision for education as laid down in the Indian Act, he shall consult with the Minister, whose views with regard to the requirements of the Indian Act shall be final".

Section 3 (b)

This is to be modified so as to remove the obligation to keep all the present schools in operation. As you pointed out, it is quite possible that at some time it may be desirable to discontinue the operation of a particular school. This could happen if the population of a particular settlement were to drop severely or if a settlement were to disappear. Indeed the section as it now stands would appear to make it impossible to discontinue the operation of a school if it became obsolete and its replacement by a new school were desirable. It seems to me that the solution might be to drop this subsection altogether. I cannot see that it is necessary in view of the general obligation to provide education of a standard equal to that generally available in the Northwest Territories and also of the provision for and powers of the Advisory Committee.

You suggested in our discussion this morning that it would be desirable to try to arrange everything so that full responsibility and operation are taken over by this department as of April 1, 1955. I can see no reason why that cannot be done. If we can work out the above points within the next few days I think it should be possible to have the agreement signed and to prepare our estimates and general plans on the assumption that April 1 will be the date for the new arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Public Archives Canada / Archives Publiques Canada

This copy is provided for research purposes only.
Responsibility regarding questions of copyright
and the use of this print is assumed

... pour des fins de recherche
... de leur responsabilité
... de ce

AC 22 VOLUME 324
file : 40-10-4
APR 15 1987