

Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School

SEP 26 1966

Colin Wasacase
~~STEPHEN X ROBINSON~~
PRINCIPAL

Phone KI 8-4114

P.O. Box 130

KENORA, ONTARIO

September 24, 1966

Miss Giollo Kelly,
Women's Missionary Society,
Presbyterian Church in Canada,
Room 205 - 100 Adelaide St. W.,
Toronto 1,
Ontario.

Dear Miss Kelly:

Thank you first of all for your kind assistance in obtaining a new employee in Mrs. Almeda Kristensen. She arrived safely Tuesday and she seems like a very fine person.

Well the school year has begun and the children have been coming in slowly. At present we have one hundred, twenty-seven pupils. The weather has been beautiful for the past two weeks and the children have been taking advantage of it by staying away from school and wandering away from the premises. The wanderers have been many. Their reasons all stem to loneliness and various other reasons. We do hope that they will all soon recover from it and settle into the school situation as the year progresses.

This has been very trying on the staff and especially the new who are not accustomed to it. But we do hope all will persevere and reap the abundance of achievement after patience and understanding.

I will be attending the Northwestern Indian Conference at the end of this month, September 30 - October 3/66 at the Royal Edward Hotel, Fort William, Ontario. Mr. Steale from the Department of Education for Ontario contacted me to give a fifteen to twenty minute talk on the "Education for Life in the Non Indian Community" as well as sharing in the conference. He said that he would be contacting you on it as he had received the okay from I.A.B. to use their personnel and had their full co-operation. I probably will go down on

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Exec. Director of Nat'l Missions - Correspondence with the Principal, Cecilia Jeffrey School, 1966-1967
File No. 1988-7004-17-4

the Saturday Oct. 1/66.

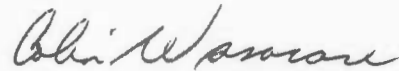
Mr. McSween, Superintendent of Missions, has also contacted me in regards to the Indian Eskimo Association Conference on the Indian and the City October 7,8,9 the following weekend. I will probably attend if all has settled down in the school by that time.

Mr. Robinson has given me the letter sent him by you in regard to medical supplies offered by Dr. E. A. Thomson. At present we are adequately supplied by the Indian Health Services and feel that they could be used to more benefit in some other area.

At present I still have feelers out for the changing of the name of the school from Cecilia Jeffrey Residential to some other. We hope that we can come up with some good names.

Hoping then to see you in the near future.

Yours truly,



Colin Wasacase,
Principal.

CW/hr

OCT 3 1966

Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School

Colin Wasacase
~~STEPHEN X. ROBINSON~~
PRINCIPAL

Phone KI 8-4114

P.O. Box 130

KENORA, ONTARIO

September 29, 1966

Miss Giollo Kelly, B.A.,
Room 205 - 100 Adelaide St. W.,
Toronto 1,
Ontario.

Dear Miss Kelly:

Thank you for your letter of September 23/66 informing us of your visit to our school. We are certainly looking forward to seeing you.

The children have begun to settle down a bit. There are only a few girls who persist that school is the worst place to go at ages 12-15 as they feel it isn't any good. We are having difficulty to convince them that this is not so. Both the school principals and myself have been working with them. We hope, as I mentioned in my previous letter, that we can achieve to make them see the importance of education.

The staff are working out very well. The new staff members are beginning to get adjusted to the new routine and discovering the many excuses children use to avoid doing things they really don't want to do.

Gloria and I are slowly beginning to adjust to bulk buying of which we were not accustomed to in our previous employ here. We sometimes think we are buying a lot but we soon discover that it just makes it or even sometimes not quite. All in all as we go at our work together we feel a small accomplishment each day.

I will be away from the school Monday Oct. 3rd at the Northwestern Indian Conference as it doesn't complete until late Monday, so this means I will arrive home early Tuesday morning by bus.

Looking forward to seeing you in the first week in October.

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File No. 1988-7004-17-4

CW/hr

Yours truly,

Colin Wasacase

Colin Wasacase,
Principal.

C.J. - Correspondence

September 30, 1966

Mr. Colin Wasacase,
Box 130,
Kenora, Ont.

Dear Colin,

Thank you for your letter of September 24th received a few days ago. I am pleased to know that Mrs. Kristensen arrived safely and that it appears that she will fit in well with the work there.

I can well understand that the beautiful fall weather is making the children very restless. I recall being at the school during the month of June a few years ago when it was very difficult to get the youngsters in for their meals. It was the kind of weather which must have made them think of home. I realize that it will be a trying period for the staff and I do trust that while we do not hope for poor weather they will soon become accustomed to the routine of the new school year.

I am pleased to know that you are participating in the Northwestern Indian Conference at Fort William. I have not heard from Mr. Steale, however it is good to know that you are being asked to share in this. I am also pleased to know that you are hoping to take in the National Conference of the Indian-Eskimo Association.

Thank you for the comments about the medical supplies about which I wrote Mr. Robinson earlier in the summer. I did not think that there would be too much likelihood that these could be used at C.J. however I told Dr. Thompson I would inquire about it.

You will have received my letter indicating that I plan to arrive in that area next week. I shall look forward to seeing you at that time. With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Giollo Kelly
Executive Director of National Missions

GK/pk

C.J. - Connors

November 16th, 1966.

Mr. Colin Wasacase,
P.O. Box 130,
KENORA, Ontario.

Dear Colini:

This will acknowledge your letter of September 29 which arrived after I had left on my Western field trip. I would also acknowledge the various forms relative to the finances of the School which have come to hand during the month of October.

First of all I would like to thank you and Gloria for your kindness to me during my recent visit to the School. I am sorry that the going has been a bit rough in the initial stages of your work there. It is always difficult to grasp the many facets of such a position in the early stages and indeed it is not expected that any person would grasp them all immediately. These take time to familiarize one's self with and I am quite sure that given a few months everything will fall into place.

I am very sorry indeed, however, that the regular difficulties of taking up a responsible position have been magnified by the restlessness of the children and more particularly by the death of the young twelve year old lad. This was most unfortunate and we feel very badly indeed about it. It is unfortunate that the children do not seem to grasp the seriousness of their action in running away. I do trust that now as the colder weather has hit your part of the country that the youngsters will settle down. I would assure you that you are not alone in this matter of runaways. Birtle

- 2 -

was having its share of difficulty and I think this is more or less par for the course when you have an open Fall such as has been the case this year. I would exhort you to keep up the good work and assure you of the prayer support of many of our members throughout the Church.

With very kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

GK/c

Executive Director of National Missions

The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives

Women's Missionary Society records

Exec. Director of Nat'l Missions - Correspondence with the Principal, Cecilia Jeffrey School, 1966-1967

File No. 1988-7004-17-4

Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School

Colin Wasacase
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
 PRINCIPAL

Phone KI 8-4114

P.O. Box 130

KENORA, ONTARIO
 November 17, 1966.

Miss Giollo Kelly,
 National Executive Director,
 Women's Missionary Society,
 Presbyterian Church in Canada,
 100 Adelaide St. W.,
 Toronto 1,
 Ontario.

Dear Miss Kelly:

I am writing to you in regards to our tragic accident in the deceased Charles Wenjack.

As explained to you on the days that you were here the children were continuing to run away. The particular week end that Charles ran away there were twelve children away on that day. This was Sunday, October 16/66. There were nine girls and three boys away on this Sunday afternoon. A fourth boy left Monday October 17/66 by himself.

The children who left on the Sunday were all reported to the Police Sunday evening. The children have all returned but for the exception of two girls. These two girls have both chosen to remain with their mothers and continue school at home. The names of the girls are Donna May Joseph from Whitefish Bay and her mother is Elizabeth Joseph. The second girl is Vera Ellen Greene from Shoal Lake and her mother is Ella Greene.

In regards to what we had done for arrangements in contacting relatives. We identified the body of Charles on Sunday evening Oct. 23/66 at the hospital. The police had brought the body from Redditt. Charles had been found twelve miles east of Redditt on the side of the railway tracks.

The same night I contacted Indian Affairs Education Mr. P. C. Clarkin, District School Superintendent for Kenora. The police in the meantime were trying to contact the parents.

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 Women's Missionary Society records

Exec. Director of Nat'l Missions - Correspondence with the Principal, Cecilia Jeffrey School, 1966-1967
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Monday Oct. 24/66 Mr. & Mrs. Robinson came to the school to inform Evelyn and her sisters of Charles' death. We felt that both Mr. & Mrs. Robinson knew the children better than we and we felt maybe they would comfort them more easily than us. We at this time are still partial strangers to the children as we slowly get to know them.

On the same day Mr. Robinson contacted a sister Daisy at Red Lake, Ontario who was brought to Ear Falls by the minister from up there. The Robinsons met Daisy at Ear Falls and returned her to the school. In the meantime an older sister Margaret contacted us from Sioux Lookout. We were also finally able to get in touch with the mother at Sioux Lookout Hospital Monday night.

The mother at this time advised that she wanted the body returned home. We took all the children up to see the mother Tuesday October 25/66 as she had requested she would like to see them.

The Police and Indian Affairs were having difficulty contacting the father at Ogoki. The main trouble was that people were not certain of communication connections to get to Ogoki because of its isolation.

Arrangements were finalized in regards to transportation of the body home and for the children Tuesday morning. This took some effort as some Branch Officials felt that deceased bodies weren't transported at Branch expenses. It was finally okayed on Tuesday morning as mentioned above.

We left for Nakina from Redditt at 6:30 P.M. the three girls and myself. The mother and two sisters Margaret and Daisy got on the train at Sioux Lookout for Nakina. We arrived in Nakina early Wednesday morning. We spent the remainder of the night in the hotel.

The following morning we made arrangements to go up to Ogoki by plane. We were fortunate enough to obtain two planes to take us. We had increased our party by this time to nine people.

Rev. J. Long Anglican minister from Nakina came along to officiate at the funeral. The funeral was held on Thursday October 27/66.

The father was very upset as no messages had been received by him until the day of arrival. I had also written

him a letter Oct. 11/66 telling him that his family were all fine. It was after this ~~time~~^{date} that Charles ran away. The father felt that I wasn't being honest with him and held me responsible for his son's death, due to my letter saying all was well.

At the grave side ceremony on viewing the body they also examined it. At this time they found the stitches of the autopsy and felt that somebody had stabbed the boy. So they were not going to allow the boy to be buried or my return until somebody phoned the O.P.P. and confirmed what I had said about an autopsy. They were fortunate to get through on the radio phone to the police. The father was then reassured that the police had confirmed my statements. He then consented to have his son buried. The father refused to allow his three daughters to return. The three girls remain at home - Evelyn in grade 8, Annie in grade 2, Lizzie in grade 3.

We arrived back in Nakina on Thursday evening. I arrived back at the school Friday morning at 7:15 A.M.

On Friday October 28/66 Mr. F. Shaw from Toronto and Mr. P.C. Clarkin of Kenora interviewed me in regards to my trip north. Mr. Ian Adams reporter for McLean's Magazine was also around in regards to Charles' death.

I spoke with Mr. Adams Monday Oct. 31/66. He at the time was concerned in my background, discipline, runaway problems, children's attitude to the school, the Wenjack family's feelings about Charlie's death.

I tried to be careful as possible in my answers to him and hope that they will be used correctly if he does publish a story.

Mr. Adams also attempted to get into Ogoki but was unable to do so but will probably be at the inquest Nov. 17/66.

Mr. F. Shaw, Assistant Regional School Superintendent, spent five days down in the area investigating the situation.

At present the children have settled somewhat. We have a few hooky players but there are a few attempted runaways. We have been successful in getting them back all the same day.

We will write a further letter later in regards to the inquest.

Yours truly,
Colin Wasacase
Colin Wasacase,
Principal.

Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School

Colin Wasacase
~~STEPHEN C. ROBINSON~~
PRINCIPAL

Phone KI 8-4114

P.O. Box 130

KENORA, ONTARIO
November 23, 1966

Miss Giollo Kelly, B.A.,
National Executive Director,
Women's Missionary Society, W.D.,
Presbyterian Church in Canada,
100 Adelaide St. W.,
Toronto 1,
Ontario.

Dear Miss Kelly:

Thank you for your letter of November 16th which arrived on Saturday.

It appears spring is well on the way. It was raining here yesterday and some of the snow has disappeared. The weatherman now predicts it is to get colder and to get more snow. I guess this can be expected in our part of the country.

The inquest was held Thursday Nov. 17 at 3:00 P.M. McLean's Magazine reporter, Ian Adams, was on hand for the full session. He was also out to the school Friday to ask me more questions. He was particularly interested if corporal punishment was administered freely that everytime the children left school and the attitude of the children towards school. I tried to answer as best as possible but one never knows what is to be printed.

Enclosed you will find a clipping of the write up in our local paper.

Mr. Robinson and Father LeBleu of St. Mary's School were also given a summons to appear at the inquest. Both expressed their ideas at the end of the session. I was a little disappointed in Father LeBleu who claims he has had only three runaways but qualified this by saying that there will always be runaways in the schools. He also expressed that the integration program seems to aggravate the problems of runaways. He felt that children in their own schools such as all Indian are much happier. So we hope that all will be reported factually.

ADMINISTERED BY THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY (W.D.) PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

We had a busy weekend. We took sixty older boys and girls in to see the film "For Pete's Sake" at the playhouse theatre Sunday afternoon at 2:00 P.M. We attended the Church service at Norwood Presbyterian Church at 11:00 A.M. We took ourselves a picnic lunch and the young people there supplied a refreshment. So we had our lunch in the church hall at Norwood.

The children after lunch toured part of the city to see the Christmas decorations along the streets. We attended the movie at 2:00 P.M. They had a large area reserved for us. The master of ceremonies for the afternoon acknowledged us.

After the movie we attended supper at St. John's Presbyterian Church Hall put on by the Old Kildonan Presbyterian Church women. It was a very lovely meal. Some of the children had never been to such an occasion and it certainly was an educational experience for them.

They returned home at 6:30 P.M. full, tired but happy. Before making the journey home they travelled down Portage Ave. to see the Christmas lights.

My wife and I remained in the city until Monday evening to do some Christmas shopping.

It appears all is well at the present time except for Mrs. Kristensen who has resigned ~~to~~^{from} work as of Dec. 2/66. She finds it difficult being away from her family. She feels that she will be better at home. She was beginning to fit in nicely but I guess one at her age can't just pick up and leave as easily as they think.. This is especially true if they have remained in the area for such a long period as she has. So we are presently looking for a replacement.

Yours truly,



Colin Wasacase,
Principal.

CW/hr

INQUEST HEARS TRAGIC TALE OF RUNAWAY BOY

The tragic story and the events leading to the death of a home-sick Indian boy who started out on a trip to his reservation home, a distance of over three hundred miles from where he was attending school in Kenora, Ontario, were unfolded during a six hour inquest held at Kenora, Ontario on Thursday.

The boy, Charles Wenjack, accompanied by three young companions, ran away from the school on October 16th of this year, walked twenty-one miles along a highway north to Redditt, Ontario where they slept overnight and then hiked about a mile to the home of an uncle of three of the lads. There they were fed, cared for and enjoyed trips to a trap line with the uncle. After a few days the Wenjack lad took his departure and started to walk along the single-track C.N.R. right-of-way, eastward heading in the direction of his parents home at Martin Falls, near Nakina. An engineer on a west-bound freight train, Edward McIvor of Winnipeg spotted the body of the lad lying beside the tracks near noon on October 23rd and notified Ontario Provincial Police.

A pathologist report attributed the cause of death as to exposure from cold and wetness. The boy, clad only in light clothing had been dead approximately 24 hours. His stomach was absolutely empty and all he had in his pockets was a small glass jar containing a few matches.

Corporal Gerald Lucas of the Ontario Provincial Police said he went to investigate where the body was found, a distance of 12.5 miles east of Redditt. The temperature was about 20 degrees. The officer said his department received frequent reports of children who had run away from the schools and told of how these incidents are investigated.

Ten year old Edward Cameron, one of the run-aways said he was lonesome and when the other "guys" were running he decided to go along. The walk to Redditt took eight hours. He said that the dead Wenjack had a railway map with him. Under questioning he told the inquest that he did not like it at the school and he would much rather be at home. He said he had been strapped often for disciplinary action and had run away on about

three other occasions.

Jack McDonald, age 11, a pupil at the Cecelia Jeffrey School said he had run away with Wenjack and they went to the home of Charlie Kelly. The boy said that he was afraid to go back to the school because of the strap. When questioned he said he would much rather be out living in the bush than attending classes.

Ralph McDonald, a brother, who is 13 and in grade 5 said he had at

(Continued on Page Sixteen)

JURY VERDICT

Death due to exposure compounded with the lack of food and adequate clothing.

1. Mr. Charles Kelly should have notified the authorities of the boys' presence.

2. Mr. Benson should have done likewise.

3. The Cecelia Jeffrey School needs more supervisory staff to adequately control the number of students involved.

4. The Indian Education System causes tremendous emotional and adjustment problems for these children.

It behooves those who are responsible for this organization to do everything possible to mitigate their problems. We make the following suggestions:

(a) a study be made of the present Indian education and philosophy. Is it right?

(b) enrollment in the residential schools causes a disruption of the basic social unit. Therefore, the enrollment should be on a smaller geographic scale to allow family liaison.

(c) brothers and sisters should not be separated in the interests of expediency.

(d) in communities where a sufficient number of pupils exist a day school should be maintained.

(e) We feel an improved situation could develop if the children were placed in private homes.

(f) if the residential schools are to remain, reduce the number of students involved so personal relationships can grow between the children and the administration.

Inquest Hears Tragic Tale

(Continued From Page 1)

tended school in Kenora for five years and left because he wanted to visit his uncle whom he liked. He said he believed Wenjack planned on walking the long distance to Martin Falls. He told the inquest that he liked trapping with his uncle better than school.

Charles Kelly, the uncle said the boys had arrived at his place about 7 a.m. and he looked after them. He told of taking his three nephews trapping and left the Wenjack boy at the house and it was during this time that the lad had made off and

was not seen again alive. Coroner Dr. R. G. Davidson asked "do you believe school is good for the children?" Reply "Yes, if they be have but they get punished when they don't." He said that children come to his place on many occasions when they run away from school and he often notified the authorities who came to get them. Checking a diary which he maintains Kelly testified that the boys had run away on October 16th, arriving at his home the following day. Wenjack left on Friday the 21st and his body was found on the 23rd. When he took his departure, said Kelly, the boy was without food of any kind, having left without his knowledge.

man that he had longed to return to his home in the north where he was happy with his family.

Colin Wasagase the principal of Cecilia Jeffrey Indian School since August 1st told the inquest that he was born on an Indian reservation in Saskatchewan and had received his education through the residential school system. He outlined conditions at the C.J. school and said that the parents on the reservations make the choice of what schools the pupils will attend. He said it was a very common occurrence for the children to wander off into the bush and he reported that run-away students are a real problem. He admitted the students get home-sick and that is the main reason for the truancy. He said the strapping punishment was instituted as a corrective measure for students who run away. On one occasion sixteen girls left in a group and when they were apprehended he had endeavoured to try a lecture and see if this would help. Instead the principal reported, the group made fun of him and termed him as being real "easy".

The children visit their homes over happy times such as Christmas, Easter, the nice summer months and when they return to the regimentation of school work they find it most difficult. When they run away it is a spur of the moment decision with nothing planned. He cited the incidence of the Wenjack case. The boy had plenty of warm clothing but left in just light apparel.

Elwood McIvor, C.N.R. Engineer at Winnipeg said he saw the body in a rockcut, stopped the train and then proceeded on to Redditt to notify authorities.

Ron Magnusson, a teacher at Valleyview School where Wenjack attended classes told the inquest that he found him a very quiet boy and was hard to talk to. Finally when Eddie Cameron joined the class the pair seemed to get along fine. Wenjack was really lonesome, the teacher said, and one one occasion told him that he had longed to return to his home in the north where he was happy with his family.

Colin Wasagase the principal of Cecilia Jeffrey Indian School since August 1st told the inquest that he was born on an Indian reservation in Saskatchewan and had received his education through the residential school system. He outlined conditions at the C.J. school and said that the parents on the reservations make the choice of what schools the pupils will attend. He said it was a very common occurrence for the children to wander off into the bush and he reported that run-away students are a real problem. He admitted the students get home-sick and that is the main reason for the truancy. He said the strapping punishment was instituted as a corrective measure for students who run away. On one occasion sixteen girls left in a group and when they were apprehended he had endeavoured to try a lecture and see if this would help. Instead the principal reported, the group made fun of him and termed him as being real "easy".

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The principal stated that when a child or group have been found missing from the school a search is instituted but information from other pupils as to the possible whereabouts is never forthcoming.

He told of planned recreational programmes instituted at the school and of all efforts being made to see that the children are happy. The Cecilia Jeffrey Indian School pupils have nearly all been integrated into the public school system of Jaffray Melick.

Mr. Wasagase said that he had accompanied the body of Charles Wenjack to the reservation home. Along with him were three of the boy's sisters who had been attending school in Kenora. He said he

found bitterness among the family members at the reserve when they learned of the boy's death and expressed doubts if the girls would ever return to Kenora for further schooling.

t seen again alive. Coroner G. Davidson asked "do you school is good for the child. Reply - "Yes, if they be- at they get punished when on't." He said that children his place on many occasions they run away from school often notified the authorities me to get them. Checking a which he maintains Kelly that the boys had run on October 16th, arriving at ne the following day. Wen- t on Friday the 21st and his as found on the 23rd. When his departure, said Kelly, y was without food of any aving left without his knowl-

December 22nd, 1966

Mr. D. Lawson,
Shingwauk Hall,
SAULT STE MARIE, Ont.

Dear Mr. Lawson:

First of all I would like to express my appreciation to you for sending forward to me a copy of the agenda for the Principals Conference which was held in Toronto last week. I was very happy to attend for a few hours and am pleased to know that it was conducted in a very fine spirit and seemed to be of benefit to all who attended.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express to you my very sincere appreciation for the assistance which you have given to Colin in your recent visit there. I know from what Colin has said that he appreciates your assistance very much and has received a great deal of insight into certain aspects of the work as a result of your guidance during your visit. Once again may I say a very sincere "thank you".

I trust that the Christmas season will be a very happy one for you and all at your school.

With very kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

GK/c

Giollo Kelly
Executive Director of National Missions

December 22nd, 1966.

Mr. Colin Wasacase,
P.O. Box 130,
KENORA, Ontario.

Dear Colin:

We have just received a letter from Mr. G. M. Nelson, Manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Kenora, relative to a guarantee which was signed by our Society in 1958 in connection with overdrafts on the Cecilia Jeffrey School account. They are asking that we re-confirm this guarantee in view of the fact that the document is now over eight years old.

I am wondering whether this is just a matter of routine in which they are going through their files and trying to bring them up to date, or whether there is some reason for this request such as a recent overdraft on your account. I should appreciate it very much if you could drop me a line by return mail to let me know any information which you might have there so that I can intelligently reply to their letter.

With very kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

GK/c

Giello Kelly
Executive Director of National Missions

December 22nd, 1966.

Mr. Colin Wasacase,
P.O. Box 130,
KENORA, Ontario.

Dear Colin:

First of all I would like to say how nice it was to see you during your recent visit to Toronto and to have you come to the office and meet some of the people here.

I would also like to thank you for your recent letters regarding the tragic death of Charles Wenjack. It was good to have these details including the newspaper clipping of the inquest. I do trust that the article when it appears in MacLean's will not be too derogatory.

I would also like to say how much I appreciate the manner in which you have accepted the assistance which has been forthcoming in co-operation with the Department. As I have indicated to you verbally on several occasions we realize that the task of principal is a very responsible one and one which involves a tremendous amount of detail which one does not become familiar with in a short time. We do feel very badly that your initiation has been a particularly difficult one but feel that before very long you will be able to cope with all aspects of your work like a 'seasoned veteran'.

I do trust that it will be a very happy Christmas at the school and that you and Gloria, as well as all members of the staff, may have a very pleasant holiday season.

With very kind regards to all.

Yours sincerely,

GK/c

Gielle Kelly
Executive Director of National Missions

JAN 23 1967

Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School

Colin Wasacase

~~STEPHEN E. ROBINSON~~
PRINCIPAL

Phone KI 8-4114

P.O. Box 130

KENORA, ONTARIO
January 20, 1967

Miss Giollo Kelly,
National Executive Director,
Women's Missionary Society,
Presbyterian Church in Canada,
50 Wynford Drive,
Don Mills,
Ontario.

Dear Miss Kelly,

We would like to thank you for your wonderful letter of Dec. 22/66 which gave us that little lift that was needed about that time.

We would also like to thank you for the \$300.00 that was forwarded to our office for the Christmas gifts for the children.

The Christmas season was very pleasant. The staff had their annual Christmas party Dec. 19/66. We had a very good social gathering with some invited guests from town such as Mr. & Mrs. Robinson, the Minister and his wife. It was a very pleasant evening as we all enjoyed the recreation and refreshments together with the wives and husbands of the various staff members.

The children had their Christmas dinner Dec. 20/66. We had the concert with the various groups putting on their items. They had a visit from Santa Claus immediately after the concert.

The children had been asked to write their parents to come on the designated date of the concert. We had a few of them out which was really nice to see as we had an opportunity to speak to them. The High School boys also put on an item which was nice to see as these were former students of the school. I am sure this helped the morale of the students present to see former students returning and wanting to share in our Christmas fun.

ADMINISTERED BY THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY (W.D.) PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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On Thursday, Dec. 22/66 the students whose parents or guardians came to pick them up did so after 3:00 P.M. The place was really buzzing for a few hours as we tried to keep track of those leaving and those remaining. It was like Grand Central Station at train time.

We also drove to Redditt to place others on the train for Sioux Lookout and to the bus to put others on the various buses to Fort Frances and Red Lake.

On Dec. 23/66 we took forty-one students to Winnipeg in the yellow bus, blue bus and station wagon. Mr. Loewen drove the yellow bus, Br. Byrka the blue bus and I drove the station wagon. We left the school at 1:00 P.M. and arrived in Winnipeg at 4:00 P.M. at the Norwood Presbyterian Church. Here we met the Christmas parents for these students. These families were Presbyterian from the various Presbyterian churches around Winnipeg. Rev. R. Krepps had appealed to the ministers of the Winnipeg churches who in turn announced it from their pulpits. The response was overwhelming as we didn't have the children to fill the homes that requested children for Christmas. Rex did a wonderful job in placing the children into homes with children of the same age. This appears to have given them a good lift as the children all had various experiences to share when they returned. We had some children who were having such a good time that they didn't want to return.

The people had such a wonderful experience in sharing their homes at Christmas that they are wondering when they can do this again. We have had a few requests for some children at Easter. Some of the children have struck up some very good friendships with the children of the homes and their letter communication has been very good.

While the children were away things were rather quiet around the place. The supervisors had 4 days holiday from Dec. 23/66 to Dec. 26/66 inclusive. Miss I. Simpson laundress had from Dec. 25/66 to Dec. 29/66 off. The Ross's and Miss love spent much time with the Robinson's at this joyous season. We were into Winnipeg to have a reunion of families on Sunday Christmas Day. We returned Monday Dec. 26/66 with my father and mother who remained with us until New Year's Eve. This break gave us time to recuperate and fix up a few things that were needed to be done for some time.

The children began to arrive home from Dec. 29/66. They all have returned but two or three who are now attending

school on their home reserves. We transferred five from our school to their home reserves at Christmas time.

Christine Meekis, a girl from Sandy Lake, came to our school Dec. 2/66 and returned at Xmas. Christine had been out of school for a year and her arrival at our school was her first attempt at school for a year and a half. She felt it too hard to catch up on her grade VIII work so decided to leave. We felt she would be better off on returning home as she was only becoming frustrated and unhappy.

Christine Cutfeet grade VI from trout lake returned at Xmas on the request of her parents as a result of letters written to parents on students who had runaway.

Helen Keesickquayask returned home because of persistent truancy and as a result would take other girls with her. She was making very little progress and no attempt to adjust.

Joseph Kakegamick and Kenneth Chisel both grade VIII returned home for truancy. Joseph is now attending school at Sandy Lake. Kenneth Chisel is living in Sioux Lookout with his parents and attending the local public school.

Things seemed to have quieted down here at the school somewhat. There were a few who began to play hooky but have settled in after a talk with them. A few of the younger girls have tried a small escapade, but they have returned on their own. We hope this extreme cold will keep them in for us for the time being.

We lost all our girls' supervisors at the end of the term. Mr. & Mrs. Byrka left our employ at the end of December and Miss Linda Smith. We now have Mrs. Ada Morrison, an Ojibway Indian from Sioux Narrows looking after the junior girls. Mrs. Morrison is 41 yrs old. It is too early yet to state how she is going to fit in. Miss Lynne Davidson, a young girl from Winnipeg is senior girls' supervisor and we are hoping will fit in with the girls. Miss Cathy McCorrister is the floating girls' supervisor. She is an Indian girl from Hodgson, Manitoba. She is one of the Birtle graduates and she attended Birtle the same time I did. We have just recently added a fourth to help out on weekends and check clothing during the day. On the boys side we got a young fellow from Toronto, a younger brother to Mr. Scott, District School Superintendent at Sioux Lookout. With these changes in child care staff there hasn't been too much disturbance.

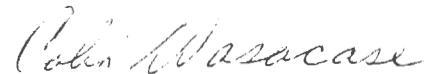
I am working along with Mr. P. C. Clarkin, District School Superintendent for Kenora in regards to setting up a training program for these new supervisors. He is approaching Miss M. Phillips, Director of Sports & Recreation for Kenora. We are hoping this can happen as soon as possible.

I was talking to Rev. A. MacSween of Home Missions in regards to a fund given him by some Auxiliary for a Centennial project for the Indian work. Some suggestions that were made were maybe a few students be taken to Expo 67 both from Birtle and here, or some scholarships for a worthy Indian student. I will be writing him later if I have any more ideas on how I can spend the money for him.

This letter seems rather lengthy but thought I better report more of the happenings around the school to you.

With best regards.

Yours truly,



Colin Masacase,
Principal.

Cv/hr

C. J. - Conroy

March 3rd, 1967.
Dictated March 2nd.

Mr. Colin Wasacase,
Box 130,
Kenora, Ontario.

Dear Colin:

It seems that quite a few days have passed since I was last in touch with you and I had hoped to get a letter off to you before now.

I was so pleased to have your letter the latter part of January in which you explained so fully about the Christmas activities at the School. It certainly seems as if it was a busy time and I am pleased to know that everything went off so well. I think it was an excellent idea to have the parents attend the concert and it was so nice that the High School boys also had a share in it.

I think it was wonderful to have the arrangements by Rax Krepps for the forty-one students to be placed in Presbyterian homes over the Christmas holidays. It certainly seems to have been quite a successful undertaking, especially in view of the fact that there has been a request for a repeat performance at Easter time. This sort of thing is excellent, both for the Indian children and for the non-Indians alike and goes a long way toward better understanding all around.

It would not be too easy for you with such a turnover of staff at the end of the year and I do hope that the new staff are working out well. How are plans coming for the training programme for the new supervisors?

I was very interested in the Centennial Project which proposed that some of the students be taken to Expo. This would be quite an experience for the youngsters.

I expect that you will be planning to attend the Principals' Workshop in Vancouver the week after next. I had planned on attending when I first

heard of it, however, with Easter being early this year the General Board of Missions have put forward their Annual Meeting one week so that it conflicts with the days of the Conference. Inasmuch as I have some responsibilities in connection with the General Board it just is not possible for me to get away. I am truly sorry about this as I would have appreciated the opportunity to talk with you and Mr. Rusaw about the work of the schools. Perhaps, however, you can give me some sort of a report on the Workshop after it is over.

I have had a letter from Mr. Rusaw to-day in which he advises that due to pressure of other matters it has not been possible for him to get to Kenora for a couple of days. He indicated, however, that he had spoken with you on the phone a number of times and that things seem to be well in hand. I do feel that it would be nice for him to pay a visit to the school even though it might have to wait until a little later than we had first anticipated.

I was in Ottawa yesterday, meeting with the other Church representatives and the Department officials, regarding the future of Indian Residential Schools in view of the fairly certain development of Unions within the school staffs in the not too distant future. We are taking a close look at this to see what changes would result as far as both the Department and the Churches are concerned. Dave Lawson was also there as a representative of the National Association of Principals and I had a brief chat with him. He was saying how much he enjoyed his visit to the School and he felt that with a little bit of experience that you would do a first rate job there at the School. He was most impressed with both you and Gloria and your warm welcome to him. I might also say that in speaking with Mr. Rodine he made a point of saying how much he appreciated the fine attitude which you had taken regarding the help that has been offered to you. I personally feel that you are to be greatly commended for this, Colin, as a willingness to accept advise and help reveals strength which will stand you in good stead as you pursue your work.

I trust that everything is going along well and that your weather has not been too severe.

With kind regards to Gloria and yourself.

Yours sincerely,

Ghollo Kelly
Executive Director of National Missions

GK/c

March 14th, 1967.
Dictated March 10th.

Mr. Colin Wasacase,
P.O. Box 130,
Kenora, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Wasacase:

On December 22nd I wrote to you relative to a letter received from Mr. G. M. Nelson, Manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Kenora, in which they were enquiring about a guarantee for overdrafts of the School account.

To date I do not seem to have received a reply from you and as this should be attended to in the very near future I should appreciate it very much if you could throw some light on the reason behind this query. We were unable to ascertain whether it was just a routine matter which they were attending to or whether there had been an overdraft recently on your account. Any information you can give us which will enable us to answer this letter intelligently will be greatly appreciated.

With very kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Giullo Kelly
Executive Director of National Missions

GK/c

MAR 28 1967

Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School

Colin Wasacase

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
PRINCIPAL

Phone KI 8-4114

P.O. Box 130

KENORA, ONTARIO

March 21, 1967.

Miss Giollo Kelly, B.A.,
Executive Director of National Missions,
Room 100,
50 Wynford Drive,
Don Mills,
Ontario.

Dear Miss Kelly:

Thank you for your letters of March 3/67 and March 14/67.

I have just arrived home from the Principal's Conference in Vancouver. It was a very pleasant and stimulating Conference. It certainly lends itself to a fine fellowship with other Principals. The sharing of ideas with one another is very good and one finds that problems are not only at your school but that others have the same kind.

We had very good leaders for lectures which helped us in our discussion groups. Their talks were appropriate for the group which lended itself towards expressing our views.

Mr. R. Davey spoke to the group and expressed the same ideas in regards to government employees as expressed to the Church Heads in February. This created a few questions but nothing was really resolved but rather was left to the heads of the church responsible groups to discuss.

Mr. A. Laing the minister gave a very good speech at a luncheon on Wednesday. According to his speech it appears that they are going to look at our admissions much more closely and see that students we receive are here for a primary concern and that is an education.

The sessions wound up on Thursday and I returned to Winnipeg Saturday evening. Gloria came in to Winnipeg and met me. We returned Sunday to the school.

ADMINISTERED BY THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY (W.D.) PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives

Women's Missionary Society records

Exec. Director of Nat'l Missions - Correspondence with the Principal, Cecilia Jeffrey School, 1966-1967

File No. 1988-7004-17-4

The students have not fully settled down as yet especially on the girl's side. A few of the girls have been wandering away from the school but with no real intent to running away home but only to visit friends or hang around town. These are a few who have started a few more. We are hoping that they will become settled.

The In Service program appears that it will begin to start at the end of April. They invited the Director of Sports and Recreation and the Director of the Y.M.C.A. in Winnipeg to come down and look at our present set up. They were down for two days March 9, 10. They observed the school in operation on a regular routine. We also assisted them in getting around in the community to see what human resources that could be obtainable to help run a program. They visited some of the schools to see if it was feasible to use their gym and equipment. We also spent some time with Mr. P. C. Clarkin, District School Superintendent, discussing such a program. It appears the earliest that they may be able to come is the last week in April as mentioned at the beginning of this paragraph.

Hockey is slowly coming to an end which was an interest for the boys. We didn't win any games but it was nice to participate. We also had a game with one of the local reserves. In speaking with the chief later he felt that this was wonderful as he said the Indian students at the reserve level seldom get out to play hockey in any league due to distances and isolation.

The girls haven't done much in regards to a set program. They have attended dances and we had a band in the school a few weeks ago for them to enjoy. They went baby sitting on the weekend of the Snow Carnival to make some money for themselves. This gave them an opportunity to get into a non-Indian home and to be responsible for all that was left to them for a few hours that they baby sat. For some it was their first job responsibility but it gave them a sense of confidence in that people trusted them with the responsibility. Of course their greatest pleasure was the monetary reward they received on the completion of this job. We didn't receive any complaints so we presume that they all did well.

In regards to the letter written to you by Mr. G. M. Nelson, Manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Kenora. The query was whether you wish to set up another such guarantee or just withdraw. As he mentions the guarantee was made seven or eight years ago and isn't much good now unless updated.

He says he is not too concerned on the overdraught as the present arrangement of the monthly advances of the government seems to be working out nicely. He is only wondering if you still would like to keep the same arrangements.

Easter is approaching and another one of our long holiday periods that we have during the year. At the present time Rev. R. Krepps is setting up the list of people who wish to have the children back with them for Easter who had them at Christmas. This will not be finalized until Wednesday. The local students will be allowed to return home if and when the parents come to pick them up.

With best regards.

Yours truly,



Colin Wasacase,
Principal.

CW/hr