

Department of Indian Affairs School Files

A useful primary source for researching Indian Residential Schools is currently found online at the Library and Archives Canada site. The files provide access to the extensive Department of Indian Affairs correspondence records from the late nineteenth century to about 1950. These are digitized images of hundreds of microfilm reels.

How to access the School Files Series at the Library and Archives website as of this writing:

1. Go to the main access point: keyword search “archives canada microform digitization” or direct link: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/006003-110.01-e.php>
2. Go to the link, Browse by Title. Select “School File Series 1879-1952” (item 2.)
3. This brings you to the first page of links to reels, e.g. c-7909. These numbers correspond to the actual microfilm reels found in various archives.
4. Use the “next” button to page through until you get to the page with microform numbers 251-300. Bookmark this page. The BC school files are all found on this page.
5. Select the desired microform. (e.g. c-8759). Locate the page number field, and enter the desired page that you have identified from the following indexes.

File Types

General Administration (1): Main files, with letters, reports and other documents about a variety of topics. These usually contain the most interesting information.

Quarterly Returns(2): These are lists of student submitted each quarter by the principal. They give each student’s name, number, home community, grade and other information.

Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts (4): largely invoices and receipts for purchasing materials and supplies, but also includes some correspondence and reports. If you are researching an event found in the general files, it is a good idea to check the Accounts files for the same dates.

Admissions and Discharges (10): Records detailing information about pupils admitted and leaving the schools

Death of Pupils (23): Official reports submitted by the school following the deaths; also may include further reports by police in some cases.

Some schools have other accounts which are self-explanatory, such as “Livestock.”

Ahousaht Residential School - Flores Island

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8759	6-276	876-1 pt 1	Ahousaht - General Administration 1901-1931
	277-318	876A-1 pt 1	Ahousaht - General Administration 1931-1950
	319-343	876-5 pt 1	Ahousaht - Building Accounts 1904
	344-767	876-5 pt 2	Ahousaht - Building Accounts 1928-1931
	768-1120	876-5 pt 3	Ahousaht - Building Accounts 1931-1938
	1121-1183	876-5 pt 4	Ahousaht - Building Accounts 1938-1944
	1184-1246	876-6 pt 1	Ahousaht - Inspectors’ Reports 1933-1940
	1247-1276	876-9 pt 1	Ahousaht - School Land 1930-1936
	1277-1305	876A-17 pt 1	Ahousaht - School Land 1930-1936

Alberni Boarding School / Alberni Residential School

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8759	1307-1624	877-1 pt 1	Alberni Boarding School- General Admin 1895-1919
	1625-1832	877-1 pt 2	Alberni - General Administration 1920-1938
	1833-1977	877-1 pt 4	Alberni - General Administration 1944-1950
	1978-2170	877-2 pt 1	Alberni Indian Residential School Returns 1942-1949
c-8760	1-342	"	"
	343-726	877-2 pt 2	Alberni Returns 1949-1952
	727-1036	877-4 pt 1	Alberni Supplies 1940-1952
	1037-1111	877-5 pt 1	Alberni - Establishment (plans) 1892-1895
	1112-1715	877-5 pt 2-3	Alberni - building supplies accounts 1922-1931
c-8761	1-199	877-5 pt 3	Alberni - building supplies accounts 1927-1931
	200-1891	877-5 p 4-11	Alberni - building supplies accounts 1931-1950
	1892-2329	877-10 pt 7	Alberni Admissions & Discharges 1946-1949
c-8762	6-53	877-10 pt 7	Alberni Admissions & Discharges 1946-1949 (cont'd)
	54-582	877-10 pt 8	Alberni Admissions & Discharges 1950-1952
	583-1360	877-11 pt 1-4	Alberni Vocational Training - Accounts 1926-1950
	1361-1611	877-12 pt 3	Alberni Supplies- accounts 1940-41
	1612-1629	877-14 pt 1	Alberni - Livestock 1931-1940
	1630-1637	877-17 pt 1	Alberni- Cadet Corp Band - accounts 1930
	1638-1716	877-22 pt 1	Alberni High School - tuition payments 1934-1945
	1717-1773	877-23 pt 1	Alberni Residential school - Death of Pupils 1937-1945

Alert Bay - St. Michael's

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8756	144-152	875-1 pt 1	Alert Bay - General Administration 1930 (re old building)
	153-491	875-1 pt 2	Alert Bay - General Administration 1889-1926
	492-678	875-1 pt 3	Alert Bay - General Administration 1926-1936
	679-791	875-1 pt 5	Alert Bay - General Administration 1947-1950
	792-1230	875-2 pt 1	Alert Bay - Quarterly Returns 1943-1949
	1231-1531	875-4 pt 1	Alert Bay - Supplies 1940-1953
	1532-1714	875-5 pt 1	Alert Bay - Building Supplies 1891-1910
	1715-1853	875-5 pt 2	Alert Bay - Building Supplies 1927-1930
c-8757	1-602	"	"
	1715-end	875-5 pt 3-9	Alert Bay - Building Supplies 1927-1930
c-8758	1-1286	875-5 pt 9-13	Alert Bay - Building Supplies 1943-1950
	1287-1292	875-8 pt 1	Alert Bay - Principal's residence 1949
	1293-1615	875-9 pt 3	Alert Bay - School Land 1932-1948
	1616-2033	875-11 pt 3, 4	Alert Bay - Vocational Training supplies 1940-1950
	2034-2213	875-14 pt 1, 2	Alert Bay - Livestock - Supplies 1921-1947
	2214-2297	875-22 pt 1	Alert Bay - Tuition payments 1936-1944
	2298-2303	875-23 pt 1	Alert Bay - Death of Pupils 1948

Christie Residential School - Clayquot

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8764	958-1198	879-1 pt 2	Christie Residential School General Admin 1930-1947
	1199-1501	879-2 pt 1	Christie - Quarterly Returns 1942-1949
	1502-2106	879-5 pt 1-2	Christie - Building supplies - accounts 1900-1933
c-8765	6-848	879-5 pt 2-5	Christie - Building supplies - accounts 1926-1950
	849-921	879-5 pt 6	Christie - supplies 1919-1948
	922-979	879-10 pt 4	Christie - Admissions & Discharges 1936
	980-1482	879-10 pt 5	Christie - Admissions & Discharges 1937-1942
	1483-1818	879-10 pt 6	Christie - Admissions & Discharges 1942-1947
	1819-2375	879-10 pt 7	Christie - Admissions & Discharges 1947-1952
	1715-2227	879-10 pt 7	Christie - Admissions & Discharges 1947-1952
	2228 -2375	879-11 pt 1	Christie - Vocational Training accounts 1929-1939
c-8766	6-166	879-11 pt 1	Christie - Vocational Training accounts 1929-1939
	167-320	879-11 pt 2	Christie - Vocational Training accounts 1939-1949
	321-385	879-23 pt 1	Christie - Death of Pupils 1935-1944

Coqualeetza Industrial School

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8754	373-628	869-1 pt 1	Coqualeetza - General Admin 1889-1907
	629-952	869-1 pt 2	Coqualeetza- General Admin 1910-1931
	953-1214	869-1 pt 3	Coqualeetza - General Admin 1933-1940
c-8766	775-1178	880-5 pts 1, 2 3	Coqualeetza - Building Supplies 1932-1941
	1179-1680	880-10 pt 1	Coqualeetza - Admissions & Discharges 1936-1938
	1681-1959	880-11 pt 1	Coqualeetza - Vocational Training supplies 1935-38
	1960-1993	880-11 pt 2	Coqualeetza - Vocational Training supplies 1938-39

Kamloops Residential School

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8770	565-733	882-1 pt 2	Kamloops Residential Schol - General Admin 1915-1936
	734-827	882-1 pt 3	Kamloops R. S. - General Admin 1938-1950
	828-1117	882-2 pt 7	Kamloops R. S. - Quarterly Returns 1943-1947
	1118-1467	882-2 pt 8	Kamloops R. S. - Quarterly Returns 1947-1952
	1468-1704	882-4 pt 1	Kamloops R. S. - Supplies 1940-1952
	1705-1858	882-5 pt 1	Kamloops R. S. - Building supplies 1892-1912
c-8771	6- 2327	882-5, pts 2-11	Kamloops R. S. - Building supplies 1920-1936
c-8772	[not currently available on line]		
c-8773	6-497	882-9 pt 1 & 2	Kamloops R.S. - farming accounts 1912-1932
	498-1230	882-11 pt 1-3	Kamloops R.S. - Vocational Training accounts 1929-50
	1231-1299	882-14 pt 1	Kamloops R. S. - Livestock accounts 1920-1938
	1300-1322	882-22 pt 1	Kamloops R.S. - Payments of Grants 1946-1950
	1333-1393	882-23 pt 1	Kamloops R.S. - Death of Pupils 1935-1945

Kitamaat Residential School - Elizabeth Long Memorial Home

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8773	1394-1568	883-1 pt 1	Kitamaat Boarding School - General Admin 1906-1932
	1569-1596	883-1 pt 2	Kitamaat Residential School - General Admin 1933-1950
	1597-1794	883-5 pt 1	Kitamaat Residential School Building Supplies 1911-1938
	1795-1816	883-5 pt 2	Kitamaat Residential School Building Supplies 1939-1946
	1817-1939	883-10 pt 1	Kitamaat Residential School - Admissions and Discharges, 1936-1939

Kootenay Residential School - St. Eugene's

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8773	1940-2263	884-1 pt 1	Kootenay Residential School -General Admin 1888-1906
c-8774	not online	884-1 pt 2, 3	Kootenay R. S. - General Admin 1910-1950
	"	884-2 pt 1	Kootenay R. S. - Quarterly Returns 1941-1952
	"	884-3 pt1	Kootenay R. S. - Payments of Grants 1931-1951
c-8775	6-2071	884-5 pts 3-8	Kootenay R. S. - Building Supplies 1930-1949
c-8776	6-348	884-5 pt 8, 9	Kootenay R. S. - Building supplies 1949-1950
	349-778	884-10 pt 4	Kootenay R.S. - Admissions and Discharges 1931-1939
	779-1299	884-10 pt 5	Kootenay R.S. - Admissions and Discharges 1939-1946
	1300-1714	884-10 pt 6	Kootenay R.S. - Admissions and Discharges 1946-1953
	1715-2213	884-11 pt 2, 3	Kootenay R.S. - Vocational instruct. salaries 1932-1948
	2214-2316	884-14 pt 1	Kootenay R.S. - livestock accounts 1925-44
c-8777	6-69	"	"
	70-75	884-17 pt 1	Kootenay R.S. - Cadet Corps Band accounts 1925
	76-112	884-23 pt 1	Kootenay R.S. - Death of Pupils 1935-1950

Kuper Island Industrial School

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8777	113-577	885-1 pt 1	Kuper Is. Industrial School- General Admin 1888-1917
	578-681	885-1 pt 2	Kuper Is. Industrial School- General Admin 1918-1945
	682-1020	885-2 pt 1	Kuper Is. Industrial School -Quarterly Returns 1946-1950
	1021-1261	885-3 pt 1	Kuper Is. I. S. - Payments of Grants
	1262-1423	885-5 pt 1	Kuper Is. I. S. - Building Supplies 1891-1895
	1424-2135	885-5 pt 3, 4	Kuper Is. I. S. - Building Supplies 1917-1930
c-8778	6-579	885-5 pt 4-7	Kuper Is. I. S. - Building Supplies 1930-1949
	580-1016	885-10 pt 6	Kuper Is. I. S. - Admissions and Discharges 1934-1939
	1017-1423	885-10 pt 7	Kuper Is. I. S. - Admissions and Discharges 1939-1944
	1424-1968	885-10 pt 8	Kuper Is. I. S. - Admissions and Discharges 1944-1949
	1969 -2250	885-10 pt 9	Kuper Is. I. S. - Admissions and Discharges 1950-1953
c-8779	6-187	"	"
	188-546	885-11 pt 1,2	Kuper Is. I. S. - Vocational instruct. salaries 1929-1949
	76-112	885-23 pt 1	Kuper Is. I. S. - Death of Pupils 1935-1941

Lejac Residential School

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8767	135-386	881-1 pt 1	Lejac - General Admin 1905-1934
	387-618	881-1 pt 2	Lejac - General Admin 1934-1946
	619-632	881-1 pt 3	Lejac - General Admin 1947-1950
	633-920	881-2 pt 4	Lejac - Quarterly Returns 1943-1946
	921-1317	881-2 pt 5	Lejac - Quarterly Returns 1947-1952
	1318-1575	881-3 pt 1	Lejac - Payment of Grants 1917-1952
	1576-1868	881-5 pt 2	Lejac - Building Accounts 1922-1924
c-8768	1-2119	881-5 pts 3-10	Lejac - Building Accounts 1925-1950
	2120-2343	881-10 pt 5	Lejac - Admissions & Discharges 1938-1941
c-8769	6-219	881-10 pt 5	Lejac - Admissions & Discharges 1938-1941 (cont'd)
	220-609	881-10 pt 6	Lejac - Admissions & Discharges 1941-1943
	610-1080	881-10 pt 7	Lejac - Admissions & Discharges 1944-1946
	1081-1665	881-10 pt 8	Lejac - Admissions & Discharges 1946-1949
	1666-2180	881-10 pt 9	Lejac - Admissions & Discharges 1949-1953
	2181-2459	881-11 pt 2	Lejac - Vocational training accounts 1936-1946
	2460-2478	881-11 pt 3	Lejac - Vocational training accounts 1946-1950
c-8770	6-93	881-11 pt 3	Lejac - Vocational training accounts 1946-1950 (cont'd)
	94-430	881-13 pt 2	Lejac - Supplies accounts 1936-1946
	431-470	881-14 pt 1	Lejac - Livestock 1925-1940
	471-474	881-17 pt 1	Lejac - Cadet Corp Band 1930
	475-483	881-22 pt 1	Lejac - Pupils 1945-1946
	484-564	881-23 pt 1	Lejac - Death of Pupils 1934-1950

Port Simpson United Church Residential School

(also included Nass Residential School and Crosby Girls Home files.)

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8779	596-748	886-1 pt 1	Port Simpson -General Admin 1897-1943
	749-768	886-1 pt 2	Nass Residential School -General Admin 1921
	769-894	886-3 pt 1	Port Simpson - Payment of Grants 1931-1948
	895-902	886-5 pt 1	Port Simpson - Inspector of Construction 1913-1914
	903-1034	886-5 pt 2	Port Simpson - Building Maintenance 1922-1950
	1035-1043	886-9 pt 1	Port Simpson - School Land 1913-1914
	1044-1104	886-12 pt 1	Crosby Girls Residential School Supplies 1904-1921
	1105-1232	886-24 pt 1	Crosby Girls RS - Audit Reports 1935-1948

Sechelt Residential School

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8779	1233-1564	887-1 pt 1	Sechelt Residential School -General Admin 1898-1929
	1565-1707	887-1 pt 2	Sechelt Residential School -General Admin 1930-50
	1708-1935	887-2 pt 1	Sechelt - Quarterly Returns 1941-1950
	1936-2226	887-5 pt 3	Sechelt - Building Maintenance 1921-1923
c-8780	6-1766	887-5 pts 4-10	Sechelt - Building Maintenance 1923-1950
	1767-2084	887-10 pt 3	Sechelt - Admissions and Discharges 1934-1939
	2085-2375	887-10 pt 4	Sechelt - Admissions and Discharges 1939-1944
c-8781	6-16	887-10 pt 4	Sechelt - Admissions and Discharges 1939-1944 (cont'd)
	17-526	887-10 pt 5	Sechelt - Admissions and Discharges 1943-1952
	527-783	887-11 pt1	Sechelt - Vocational Training Supplies 1931-1938
	784-1060	887-11 pt 2	Sechelt - Vocational Training Supplies 1938-1946
	1061- 1225	887-11 pt 3	Sechelt - Vocational Training - Instructors' Salaries
	1226-1270	887-14 pt 1	Sechelt - Livestock accounts 1923-1946
	1271-1284	887-17 pt 1	Sechelt- Band Corp accounts 1939-1945
	1285-1298	887-22 pt 1	Sechelt - Tuition payments 1949-1950
	1299-1327	887-23 pt 1	Sechelt - Death of Pupils 1936-1937

St. Georges' Residential School, Lytton

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8781	1328-1712	888-1 pt 2	St. George's Residential School -General Admin 1922-34
	1713-1993	888-1 pt 3	St. George's Residential School -General Admin 1927-28
	1994-2199	888-1 pt 6	St. George's R. S. -General Admin 1941-1949
	2200-2220	888-1 pt 7	St. George's R. S. -General Admin 1949-1950
	2221-2285	888-2 pt 1	St. George's R. S. - Quarterly Returns 1943-1949
c-8782	6-236	"	"
	237-734	888-2 pt 2	St. George's R. S. - Quarterly Returns 1941-1949
	735-976	888-3 pt 3	St. George's R. S. - Payment of grants 1938-1943
	977-1350	888-3 pt 4	St. George's R. S. - Payment of grants 1938-1943
	1351-1780	888-5 pt1	St. George's R. S. - Building Maint. 1923-1927
c-8783	6-372	"	"
	373-1062	888-5 pt 2	St. George's R. S. - Building Maint. 1927-1929
	1063-1408	888-5 pt 3	St. George's R. S. - Building Maint. 1929-1933
	1409-1616	888-5 pt 4	St. George's R. S. - Building Maint. 1933-1938
	1617-1947	888-5 pt 5	St. George's R. S. - Building Maint. 1938-1947
	1948-1983	888-5 pt 6	St. George's R. S. - Insp. of Construction 1927-1929
	1984-2196	888-5 pt 7	St. George's R. S. - Building Maint. 1947-1949
	2197-2341	888-5 pt 8	St. George's R.S. - Building Maint. - Plans 1950
c-8784	6-44	"	"
	45-293	888-9 pt 1	St. George's R. S. - School Land 1891-1920
	294-600	888-9 pt 2	St. George's R. S. - Irrigation - Plans - 1914-1934
	601-642	888-9 pt 3	St. George's R. S. - Irrigation accounts 1935-1948
	643-1037	888-10 pt 9	St George's R. S. - Admissions & Discharges 1936-1939
	1038-1460	888-10 pt 10	St. George's R. S. - Admissions & Discharges 1939-1943
	1461-1861	888-10 pt 11	St. George's R. S. - Admissions & Discharges 1943-1947
	1862-2357	888-10 pt 12	St. George's R. S. - Admissions & Discharges 1947-1951
c-8785	6-69	"	"
	70-	888-11 pt 1	St. George's R. S. - Vocational Training acc. 1929-1935
	-694	888-11 pt 2	St. George's R. S. - Vocational Training acc. 1936-1941
	695-924	888-11 pt 3	St. George's R. S. - Vocational Training acc. 1941-1948
	925-956	888-11 pt 4	St. George's R. S. - Vocational Training acc. 1949-1950
	957-1037	888-14 pt 1	St. George's R. S. - Livestock acc. 1933-1943
	1038-1055	888-17 pt 1	St. George's R. S. - Cadet Corps Band 1924-1930
	1056-1121	888-22 pt 1	St. George's R.S. - Tuition payments 1930-1950
	1122-1174	888-23 pt 1	St. George's R.S. - Death of Pupils 1935-1937

St. Mary's Residential School, Mission

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8786	1787-2055	890-1 pt 1	St. Mary's Residential School -General Admin 1876-1932
	2056-2232	890-1 pt 2	St. Mary's Residential School -General Admin 1933-1950
	2233-2295	890-2 pt 1	St. Mary's R. S. - Quarterly Returns 1943-1949
c-8787	6-203	"	"
	204-487	890-2 pt 2	St. Mary's R. S. - Quarterly Returns 1949-1952
	488-760	890-4 pt 1	St. Mary's R. S. - Supplies 1939-1953
	761-807	890-5 pt1	St. Mary's R. S. - Building Maint. 1896-1903
	808-1105	890-5 pt 2	St. Mary's R. S. - Building Maint. 1922-1927
	1106-1413	890-5 pt 3	St. Mary's R. S. - Building Maint. 1927-1935
	1414-1547	890-5 pt 4	St. Mary's R. S. - Building Maint. 1936-1938
	1548-1799	890-5 pt 5	St. Mary's R. S. - Building Maint. 1938-1941
	1800-2029	890-5 pt 6	St. Mary's R. S. - Building Maint. 1941-1948
c-8788	1-136	"	"
	137-295	890-5 pt 7	St. Mary's R. S. - Building Maint. 1948-1950
	296-463	890-11 pt 1	St. Mary's R. S. - Vocational training 1929-1939
	464-653	890-11 pt 2	St. Mary's R. S. - Vocational Training 1938-1949
	654-657	890-14 pt	St. Mary's R. S. - livestock accounts 1931
	658-665	890-14 pt 1	St. Mary's R.S. - Tuition payments 1950
	666-685	890-23 pt 1	St. Mary's R.S. - Death of Pupils 1935-1936

Squamish Residential School

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8785	1175-1389	889-1 pt 1	Squamish Residential School - General Admin 1894-1933
	1390-1473	889-1 pt 2	Squamish Residential School - General Admin 1935-1950
	1474-1746	889-2 pt 1	Squamish R. S. - Quarterly Returns 1940-1950
	1747-2069	889-5 pt1	Squamish R. S. - Building Maint. 1908-1932
	2070-2103	889-5 pt 2	Squamish R. S. - Building Maint. 1949-50
	2104-2119	889-5 pt 3	Squamish R. S. - Building Maint. 1933-1949
c-8786	6-196	"	"
	197-552	889-10 pt 3	Squamish R. S. - Admissions & Discharges 1932-1941
	553-1035	889-10 pt 4	Squamish R. S. - Admissions & Discharges 1941-1952
	1036-1352	889-11 pt 1	Squamish R. S. - Vocational training 1926-1935
	1353-1566	889-11 pt 2	Squamish R. S. - Vocational Training 1941-1949
	1567-1583	889-11 pt 3	Squamish R. S. - Vocational Training 1949-1950
	1584-1786	889-13 pt 1	Squamish R.S. - Medical Supplies 1924-1937

Williams Lake Residential School

also known as Caribou Industrial School; St. Joseph's Mission

Microform #	pages	File	Details
c-8762	1775-2067	878-1 pt 1	Caribou Industrial School- General Admin 1890-1912
	2068-2216	878-1 pt 2	Caribou Industrial School- General Admin 1918-1937
	2217-2294	878-1 pt 3	Caribou Residential School- General Admin 1938-1948
	2295-2338	878-2 pt 1	Caribou R. S. - Returns 1941-1949
c-8763	1-308	"	"
	309-498	878-2 pt 2	Caribou R. S. - Returns 1949-1952
	499-875	878-5 pt 1	Caribou R. S. Building Supplies 1893-1927
	876-1920	878-5 pt 2-5	Caribou R. S. Building Supplies 1927-1947
c-8764	1-594	878-5 pt 5, 6	Caribou R. S. Building Supplies 1927-1947
	595-893	878-11 pt 1, 2	Caribou R. S. Vocational Training accounts 1929-47
	894-923	878-14 pt 1	Caribou R. S. Livestock Supplies 1927-1932
	924-947	878-17 pt 1	Caribou R. S. Cadet Corps Band Set accounts 1945-46
	948-957	878-23 pt 1	Caribou Residential School Death of Pupils 1939