

Indian Affairs  
School Files

(RG 10 Volume 6461)

File 887-10, part 3,	Vancouver Agency - Sechelt Residential School - Admissions & Discharges 1934-1939
File 887-10, part 4	Vancouver Agency - Sechelt Residential School - Admissions and Discharges 1939 - 1944
File 887-10, part 5	Vancouver Agency - Sechelt Residential School - Admissions & Discharges 1943 - 1952
File 887-11, part 1	Vancouver Agency - Sechelt Residential School - Vocational Training-Supplies-Accounts 1931 - 1938
File 887-11, part 2	Vancouver Agency - Sechelt Residential School - Building Maintenance-Supplies-Accounts-Vocational Training 1938 - 1946
File 887-11, part 3	Vancouver Agency - Sechelt Residential School - Vocational Training-Accounts-Instructors' Salaries 1947 - 1950
File 887-14, part 1	Vancouver Agency - Sechelt Residential School - Livestock-Accounts 1923 - 1946
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File 887-22, part 1	Vancouver Agency - Sechelt Residential School - Tuition payments 1949 - 1950
File 887-23, part 1	Vancouver Agency - Sechelt Residential School - Death of Pupils. 1936 - 1937

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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No. 167-18-23.....

**Department of Indian Affairs**

19.....

SECHLT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

DEATH OF PUPILS

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
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100-1007



CANADA

## DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Memorandum of an inquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of  
..... (George) Freddie George ....., Pupil No. 182.....  
of the ..... Sechelt ..... Indian Residential School at ..... Sechelt B.C.  
who died at ..... Sechelt School ..... (place) on ..... 29 March 1936 .....

### INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FORM No. 414.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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POOR COPY

**A. STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE RESIDENTIAL  
SCHOOL**

---

1. On what date did this pupil fall sick or suffer injury? *January 20, 1936*
2. At what time of day? *afternoon*
3. When and to whom did he or she report this illness or accident?.....  
*Sister Patricia noticed temperature was 102°*
4. What means were taken to afford relief? *Placed him in infirmary*
5. What medicines were used for this purpose and in what dose or quantity?.....  
*Castor oil usual quantity for child of this age*
6. When was the doctor called? *January 22, 1936*
7. If the pupil was removed to hospital, at what time was this done and by what means of transport? .....
8. If the pupil was not removed to hospital, what measures were taken for his or her care at the school? *Hospital care at school under continual observation of the doctor.*
9. Add any other useful information here.  
*Patient was never normal, fluctuating temperatures, mother stated he was delicate from infancy & had been injured when very young & was always weak-chested.*

*J. Stelman, P.M.*  
Principal.

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

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 387-23, part 1)

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

I attended George Freddie George from 22nd January 1936  
to 20th March 1936. The immediate cause of death was.....  
phthisis  
The contributory cause of death was tubercule of ~~right~~ right lower lobe

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

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

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

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

Fred. Inglis M.D.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
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C. STATEMENT OF INDIAN AGENT

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

*George Freddie George*

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

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

*After death of this pupil, the infirmary was thoroughly disinfected in accordance with instructions of the medical officer. Rev. Principal recommended that this pupil be sent to hospital in Vancouver but Dr MacQuarrie advised he was unable to find room for him and that the school infirmary was the best which could be done for this pupil*

*Fred Ball*

Chairman—Indian Agent.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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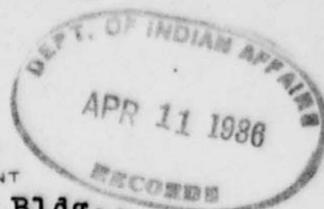
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DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
CANADA



OFFICE OF  
INDIAN AGENT

203-6 Rogers Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.  
April 6th 1936.



Sir:-

I beg to enclose herewith a report on the death of Pupil No.182, Freddie George - registered as George Freddie George - who died in Sechelt Residential School on Sunday, March 29th 1936. By a sad coincidence, his father, Councillor Fred George, Sr., died in Vancouver General Hospital at almost exactly the same time.

It was not possible to hold the Board of Inquiry until April 2nd as the Reverend Principal was absent from the School until that date.

The history of this case is as follows: On March 19th, the Reverend Principal phoned me that he was bringing Freddie George to Vancouver for hospitalization, and asked me to advise Dr.McQuarrie, which I did. Upon being told that it was a pulmonary tuberculosis case, Dr.McQuarrie advised me it was no use bringing the boy to Vancouver, as St.Paul's Hospital would not accept the case, and all available space in the General Hospital was taken; I phoned this information to the Reverend Principal the same evening. He said he would keep the boy in school until I could make some arrangements regarding him. Dr.McQuarrie thought the school infirmary was the best place for him under the circumstances; we could not send him to his home as his father was also seriously ill. On Saturday, March 28th, Dr.Inglis told me the boy was very sick, and said he must definitely be moved from the School as he was a menace to the other pupils. On Sunday, the 29th, at 10 a.m. I had another consultation with Dr.Inglis and told him I would have the boy removed on the first boat, and placed in a home at Squamish; arranging this with the Nurse, Miss Gerry. At 4 p.m. Sunday, Dr.Inglis called upon me again, saying the Reverend Principal had just phoned him that the boy had died, and they were taking the body to Vancouver on the boat leaving Sechelt that evening.

*By the way*

The Medical Officer, Dr.Inglis, states that everything possible was done for the boy at the School after he was found to be running a temperature. The mother did not wish to make a statement or attend the hearing. She had previously advised the Reverend Principal that the boy was not strong and had suffered a chest injury as a child, but there was no evidence of this injury.

Incidentally, this is the second Board of Inquiry at the School within the past 7 months.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

B/DH.

(F.J.C.Ball)  
Indian Agent.

The Secretary,  
Department of Indian Affairs,  
OTTAWA.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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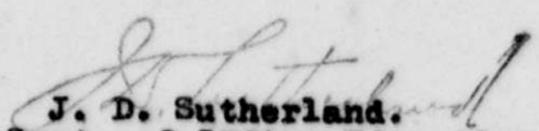
Ottawa, April 15th, 1936.

Dear Sir,-

The Department is in receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, enclosing report regarding the death of Freddie George, pupil No. 182 of the Sechelt Indian Residential School.

From the information given in your letter, it appears that everything possible was done for this boy.

Yours truly,

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

  
F. J. C. Ball, Esq.,  
Indian Agent,  
203-6 Rogers Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

PP/O'M.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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Sechelt Residential School  
Board of Enquiry into death of  
Simon Francis Jeffries aged 13  
Pupil No 146.  
Sept 17. 1935

Statement of Abraham Jeffries - father of deceased.

" I thank you my agent for what you did for me and my boy in Vancouver it goes right into my heart and I will not forget. I thank you Doctor Inglis and the doctor who tried to help my boy in Vancouver. I know even good doctors make mistakes sometimes. Simon was a quiet boy home he was never sick and never very well. In the holidays I told him he could go to the West Coast fishing and he said he nearly fell overboard last year and was afraid to go again. The trouble at the school is that the children feel sick and won't tell the Principal until they are real bad. I am quite satisfied with everything done for my boy and have nothing to say.

Statement concluded.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL  
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Case No. ....

COPY.

PERSONAL HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Name Master Simon Jefferies

Date

Tentative Diagnosis

1. Tuberculous peritonitis.
2. Intestinal obstruction.

Age ..... Sex ..... Race ..... S.M.W. ....

Occupation ..... Discharged

Family History: Health of living, noting especially hereditary and infec. disorders

Family history apparently negative.

Chief Complaint: Date, mode of onset, probable cause, course

1. Pain in abdomen - 7 days
2. Constipation - 5 days.
3. Nausea and vomiting - 3 days.

About one week ago the patient developed a pain in the upper abdomen following the eating of some green apples.

Past History: Diseases from childhood to date, habits, social data

Apparently nothing beyond diseases of childhood with good recovery.

Working Diagnosis: After physical examination

General Condition: Temp. .... Height ..... Wt. n. ....

pr. .... Pulse: rate ..... char. ....

B.P.: s. .... d. .... Resp.: rate

char. ....

Nutrition, etc. .... Rather ill nourished - fairly well developed.

Physical findings: Head, Neck, Chest, Cardio-Vascular, Abdomen, Genito-Urinary, Skin, Bones and Joints, Glandular, Neuro-muscular.

Head and neck. Ears, eyes, nose, negative.

Mouth - teeth carious and dirty. Throat slightly injected.

Neck. No thyroid enlargement or glandular involvement.

Chest. Heart rate 96, sounds are rather soft - no murmurs, no enlargement.

Lungs - clear.

Abdomen: - Full. Tympanitic - full and dull on percussion in the flanks and hypo-

gastrium. Slightly tender throughout

abdomen. No masses.

C.N.S. and extremities negative.

Immediate post-operative condition: Hemorrhage, shock, etc.

Poor.

Final Diagnosis Intestinal obstruction. Chr. peritonitis - tuberculous.

Examined by W. H. Stockton, M.D.  
Interne.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Memorandum of an inquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of  
*Simon Francis Jeffries*, Pupil No. *146*  
of the *Sechelt* Indian Residential School at *Sechelt B.C.*  
who died at *St Pauls Hospl Vancouver* (place) on *14 Sept* 19*35*

INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FORM No. 414.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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POOR COPY

A. STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE RESIDENTIAL  
SCHOOL

1. On what date did this pupil fall sick or suffer injury? Monday Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>
2. At what time of day? 8 am.
3. When and to whom did he or she report this illness or accident? To disciplinarian  
and to the nurse
4. What means were taken to afford relief? to bed and a dose of castor oil
5. What medicines were used for this purpose and in what dose or quantity? dose of  
castor oil - 2 dessertspoons in black coffee - lemon juice.  
cal. Bisma - level teaspoon in 1/2 glass water.
6. When was the doctor called? Sunday Sept 8<sup>th</sup> & Wed. Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>
7. If the pupil was removed to hospital, at what time was this done and by what means of transport? Sept 11<sup>th</sup>. (Came to Vancouver by Union S.S. accompanied)  
(by the Principal FJCB)
8. If the pupil was not removed to hospital, what measures were taken for his or her care at the school? .....
9. Add any other useful information here.

On Sept 4<sup>th</sup> he felt better and had no temperature  
was up for part of the day - but had no appetite -  
the nurse ordered him to bed once more.

*F. J. C. B.*

Principal.

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

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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B. STATEMENT OF THE PHYSICIAN WHO ATTENDED  
THE DECEASED PUPIL

I attended *Simon Francis Joffe* from *Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>*  
to *Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> 1935*. The immediate cause of death was.....

*Intestinal Obstruction*

The contributory cause of death was *Old Tuberculous  
peritonitis with multiple adhesions of small  
intestines.*

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

Did they follow out your professional instructions? *Hospital  
Personnel did.*

If in either respect, you consider them to have been at fault, it is required that you express

your carefully considered views as follows:

*This patient was referred to me by  
Dr. F. Inglis of Secharton Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. Upon  
his arrival at St Pauls Hospital I had Dr. G. E. Seldon  
see him with me & on his advice & my own  
opinion I kept the case under observation until  
the morning of Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> when I called Dr. Seldon  
in again to operate immediately*

*W. H. McNamee* M.D.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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C. STATEMENT OF INDIAN AGENT

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

*Simon Francis Jeffries*.....

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

*A number of boys were taken sick as the result of eating green apples which they had stolen. All responded to school treatment except Jeffries, and the doctor was later called to attend him.*

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

*Note - School care was judicious and everything possible was done for the boy.*

*Dr Inglis requests the school to notify him sooner when pupils are taken sick, but it would have made no difference in this case.*

*Fred G. Ball*

Chairman—Indian Agent.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
CANADA

OFFICE OF  
INDIAN AGENT

203-6 Rogers Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B.C.,  
September 19, 1935.

Your File C1-1-23.

Sir:-

I have the honour to enclose herewith the result of an inquiry into the death of Simon Francis Jefferies, late pupil of the Sechelt Residential School, who died following an operation in St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, B.C.

The boy's death was no doubt hastened as a result of eating green apples but his condition was serious before that, although he had not reported sick, and the School did all they could for the boy. The only criticism of the school authorities is that sickness is not reported to the medical officer, Dr. Inglis, quickly enough. At the inquiry Dr. Inglis referred to an appendicitis case which is still in hospital, where he was not called until the boy was in serious condition.

I have reported to the Department in connection with this School and have received routine replies which are unsatisfactory, regarding wholesale dismissals of the staff by the new Principal. I strongly objected to the action of the Principal in calling for the resignation of the manual training teacher who was appointed and paid by the Department and has done excellent work, and this matter is still being batted back and forth. He reports for duty on the appointed days but so far this term no instruction has been given as the Principal will not send the boys to his class-room. Meanwhile the pupils are without instruction in the most important part of their curriculum. I mention this as one incident of the actual harm being done by this irresponsible and unwarranted dismissing of employees. Possibly we have no say where the inside staff is concerned, but I think you should be acquainted with the facts. Dr. Inglis advises me that the Sister who has been nurse in the School for many years has been replaced in the general shake-up. The former nurse knew all the Sechelt Indians and their family histories and Dr. Inglis said he could absolutely trust her diagnosis of patients and she knew exactly when to call him. In the Simon Jefferies' case it would have made little or no difference but the appendicitis case might easily have had serious consequences and the boy is still in hospital. Dr. Inglis says that the former nurse would have recognized the symptoms immediately but by the time he was called, inflammation had become acute.

I have never yet been able to obtain any clear understanding of an agent's duties with regard to residential schools. Some principals work with the agent

Harold W. McGill, Esq., M.D.,  
Deputy Superintendent General  
of Indian Affairs, Ottawa.

and.....

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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and encourage him to inspect the school and see for himself what is going on, other principals appear to resent the agent going into the school, or taking the slightest interest in it.

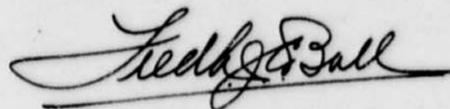
I knew that the satisfactory standard at Seehelt School for the care of the pupils has not been maintained under the present regime and that not only is co-operation lacking but there is a veiled hostility becoming more and more apparent which I can not yet understand.

The school receives a generous grant from the Department more than sufficient to take care of these pupils and I would say that the Department's representative has a right to be consulted rather than ignored in matters affecting the education, welfare, safety and general well-being of the pupils.

I am advised by some of the travelling salesmen that the amount of their orders for provisions has been greatly reduced since Reverend Father Fahlman succeeded Reverend Father Maillard last Fall which would indicate that the feeding of the children is not up to the former standard, although I have no definite knowledge of this as yet. In the clinical report the pupil is shown as "rather ill nourished" but I presume the disease would cause that condition.

I feel that it is my duty to report these matters to you even if I exceed my authority in doing so, but personally I can not see why these schools should be held sacrosanct and above all criticism.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,



(F.J.C. Ball).  
Indian Agent.

Enclosures:-

B/HM.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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203-6 Rogers Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B.C.,  
September 19, 1935.

*Novel Review*  
*Sechelt*  
*McGill*  
Your File 61-1-23.

1  
Dr.  
Sir:-

I have the honour to enclose herewith the result of an inquiry into the death of Simon Francis Jefferies, late pupil of the Sechelt Residential School, who died following an operation in St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, B.C.

The boy's death was no doubt hastened as a result of eating green apples but his condition was serious before that, although he had not reported sick, and the School did all they could for the boy. The only criticism of the school authorities is that sickness is not reported to the medical officer, Dr. Inglis, quickly enough. At the inquiry Dr. Inglis referred to an appendicitis case which is still in hospital, where he was not called until the boy was in serious condition.

I have reported to the Department in connection with this School and have received routine replies which are unsatisfactory, regarding wholesale dismissals of the staff by the new Principal. I strongly objected to the action of the Principal in calling for the resignation of the manual training teacher who was appointed and paid by the Department and has done excellent work, and this matter is still being batted back and forth. He reports for duty on the appointed days but so far this term no instruction has been given as the Principal will not send the boys to his class-room. Meanwhile the pupils are without instruction in the most important part of their curriculum. I mention this as one incident of the actual harm being done by this irresponsible and unwarranted dismissing of employees. Possibly we have no say where the inside staff is concerned, but I think you should be acquainted with the facts. Dr. Inglis advises me that the Sister who has been nurse in the School for many years has been replaced in the general shake-up. The former nurse knew all the Sechelt Indians and their family histories and Dr. Inglis said he could absolutely trust her diagnosis of patients and she knew exactly when to call him. In the Simon Jefferies' case it would have made little or no difference but the appendicitis case might easily have had serious consequences and the boy is still in hospital. Dr. Inglis says that the former nurse would have recognized the symptoms immediately but by the time he was called, inflammation had become acute.

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Harold W. McGill, Esq., M.D.,  
Deputy Superintendent General  
of Indian Affairs, Ottawa.

and.....

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(2)

and encourage him to inspect the school and see for himself what is going on, other principals appear to resent the agent going into the school, or taking the slightest interest in it.

I know that the satisfactory standard at Sechelt School for the care of the pupils has not been maintained under the present regime and that not only is co-operation lacking but there is a veiled hostility becoming more and more apparent which I can not yet understand.

The school receives a generous grant from the Department more than sufficient to take care of these pupils and I would say that the Department's representative has a right to be consulted rather than ignored in matters affecting the education, welfare, safety and general well-being of the pupils.

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I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,



(F. J. C. Ball).  
Indian Agent.

Enclosures:-

B/HM.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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*Sept 23rd 1935*

September 23rd. 1935.

Dear Mr. Ball,

Your letter of the 19th. September enclosing report on the inquiry into the death of Simon Francis Jefferies was received this morning.

I have read your letter and the enclosed report and have marked them to the Schools and Medical Branches for attention.

Yours very truly,

*Stewart*

Deputy Superintendent General.

F. J. C. Ball, Esq.,  
Indian Agent,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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Sahelt School

June 29<sup>th</sup> 33

Dear Father

I am writing you lines  
to let you know things that  
are going on in the school  
I wonder if the chiefs would  
do something about it

We are not allowed to  
talk to your parent or  
any of the people who are in  
the village we're not  
even allowed to smile  
or say hello - at them  
The school is not a  
school at all it is a  
jail house now it is  
more than a jail

And the the food is a pig  
food it is not fit to eat

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6461, file 887-23, part 1)

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OR COPY

human being. to eat  
it. some stones apples  
cores. rotten squids  
and worms, and rotten  
meat and they force  
us to eat it that  
why some boys get  
sick they don't like  
to eat it. that all  
~~I can say to you~~  
I can say something  
but that all I can  
tell you  
Arthur Jeffries

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STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Memorandum of an inquiry into the cause and circumstances of the death of Moses Joe, Pupil No. 166 of the Sechelt Indian Residential School at Sechelt, who died at Sechelt Ind Res School (place) on 19th Jan 1937

INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FORM No. 414.

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**A. STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE RESIDENTIAL  
SCHOOL**

---

1. On what date did this pupil fall sick or suffer injury?..... *12<sup>th</sup> Jan 1937*
2. At what time of day?..... *Forenoon*
3. When and to whom did he or she report this illness or accident?.....  
*Sister Patricia (Matron) Forenoon 12 Jan 1937*
4. What means were taken to afford relief?..... *Put to bed*
5. What medicines were used for this purpose and in what dose or quantity?.....  
*Castor oil and fluid diet*
6. When was the doctor called?..... *12<sup>th</sup> Jan 1937*
7. If the pupil was removed to hospital, at what time was this done and by what means of transport? .....
8. If the pupil was not removed to hospital, what measures were taken for his or her care at the school? .....
9. Add any other useful information here.  
*An out-break of measles occurred and many of the pupils were sick. As soon as meningitis showed he was isolated and doctor called immediately.*

*J. G. Fahlman*  
Principal.

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

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B. STATEMENT OF THE PHYSICIAN WHO ATTENDED  
THE DECEASED PUPIL

I attended Moses Joe from 12th Jan 1937  
to 19th January 37 The immediate cause of death was.....

Hemorrhagic measles.

The contributory cause of death was possibly hemophilia

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

Did they follow out your professional instructions? yes

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

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

Frederick Inglis, M.D.

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C. STATEMENT OF INDIAN AGENT

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

*Moses Joe*

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

*This is the fifth pupil of this school who has died in the past two years*

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

*Most of the pupils have had measles during the current epidemic but it was a mild type and this is the only death so far.*

*Fred G. Ball*

Chairman—Indian Agent.

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DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
CANADA



OFFICE OF  
INDIAN AGENT

416 Dominion Public Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.  
February 4th 1937.

167-18-23  
Department of Mines & Resources  
Indian Affairs Branch  
FEB 8 1937

Sir:

I beg to enclose herewith the usual form covering the death of a pupil in Sechelt Residential School. Although there were no deaths at the School for a long period, there have been five since the entire staff, from Principal to janitor, was changed two years ago. A Board of Inquiry shows that each pupil died a natural death and received attention in the School sick ward after he or she had reported sick.

The Board is unable to obtain sufficient data previous to the pupil reporting sick, to make any recommendations.

Some time after the Inquiry in a previous case it was reported, and I believe can be substantiated, that the boy who died of tuberculosis was punished a month or so before he died by being forced to hop on one leg up and down the school yard in spite of his protests that he was in pain. In the present case, the father of the boy said he had been told that the boy was seen at the school window calling for him and was slapped for it the day before he died. This was denied by the school authorities and could not be corroborated.

The mental attitude of both pupils and parents towards the School is very unfavourable and complaints are continually being made. One of the parents, whose son was the pupil who died of tuberculosis, handed me the enclosed letter written by another son at the School. I do not place much confidence in such letters, but I feel sure that a number of changes should be made at the School, but unless definitely instructed to do so, will not make any recommendations, as the "investigation" held by the Reverend Father Scannell and Mr. Assistant Commissioner Perry possibly did more harm than good as it was based on several erroneous premises.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(F.J.C. Ball)  
Indian Agent.

B/DH.

The Secretary,  
Indian Affairs Branch,  
OTTAWA.

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167-15-23.

Ottawa, February 9, 1937.

Dear Sir:

The Department is in receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, enclosing a memorandum into the cause and circumstances of the death of Moses Joe, No. 166, of the Sechelt Indian Residential School.

We have also noted the contents of your letter and consider that you are not satisfied with the management of the Sechelt Residential School. A copy of your letter is being forwarded to Indian Commissioner MacKay, and he is being requested to fully investigate the complaints which you have received.

Yours truly,

*T. R. L. MacInnes*  
T. R. L. MacInnes,  
Secretary.

*F. J. C. Ball*  
F. J. C. Ball, Esq.,  
Indian Agent,  
416 Dominion Public Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B.C.

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EXTRACT  
ORIGINAL ON

75-164

167-18-23

RECORDS  
FEB 10 1937

REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1937, ON VANCOUVER AGENCY.  
X X X

*See letter under  
of Sub 7/07  
LPP*

On the 20th the death of a pupil took place at Sechelt Residential School, and the usual investigation was held. This school was operated for several years without a death, but there have been five since an entirely new staff was placed there two years ago. The former Sister Matron had had many years of nursing service among two generations of Sechelt Indians and knew their family medical histories. This was valuable information when pupils reported sick, and the medical officer has said that he trusted her diagnosis as much as his own. There are still many bitter complaints from the Indian parents, as to the treatment of the pupils at the school, and I am afraid it may end with some untoward incident. On my last visit to the reserve, the Indians stated they were going to hire "the best lawyer in Vancouver" to investigate the school, as soon as they earned enough money from logging and fishing.

X

X

F. J. C. Ball.  
Indian Agent.

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