

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

I attended Albert Reginald from September 1947
to 8 April 1951. The immediate cause of death was Exposure
to Cold. Had walked approx 12 miles in attempt to
reach home at Smoky Island - fell into Wuch
The contributory cause of death was River en route - became
exhausted - lay down to rest 1 1/2 miles from home at
Smoky Island - where his body was found

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? N/A

Did they follow out your professional instructions? N/A

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

Wm B. Buckley, M.D.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6272, file 582-23, 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 Albert NEMINAK, #196 Pine Creek Band (Pine Creek Indian Residential School) 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.

J. H. Ste...
Chairman—Indian Agent.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6272, file 582-23, part 1)

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

DIVISION	SUB-DIVISION	DETACHMENT
"B"	Dauphin	Winnipegosis
PROVINCE	Manitoba	DATE 9th April 51

FILE REFERENCES

Rs: Albert NEPINAK, Treaty Indian,
Pine Creek Indian Reserve,
SUDDEN DEATH BY EXPOSURE
(WINNIPEGOSIS DEP. CASE)

HEADQUARTERS

NAME OF DECEASED:.....Albert NEPINAK
AGE.....Born 13th December 1940,
CAUSE OF DEATH.....Exposure to the elements.

SUB-DIVISION

Dauphin
5181175-45

PLACE OF DEATH.....Pine Creek Indian Reserve, Approx.
4 miles North West of Indian Residential School.

DETACHMENT

Winnipegosis
51.C.16

DATE & TIME OF DEATH....Between the hours of 12 Midnight
8.4.51 and 4.00 A.M. 9.4.51.

P. C. R.

Winnipegosis
1st

CORONER.....Dr. Wm. BASHUCKY, Winnipegosis, Man.

WITNESSES.....Arsene NEPINAK, T.I. Father of
deceased.
Joseph NEPINAK, T.I., Uncle of
deceased.
Lindy MANCRESE, T.I., Age 13 years.
Rev. Father deBRETAGNE, Principal.
Gordon HOGSTAIL, T.I. Age 13 years.

SURVIVED BY.....Parents and small brothers and
sisters, Treaty Indians of Pine
Creek Reserve.

A. R. V. No.

8th April 51.

1. At approximately 4.30 P.M. this date, the writer was advised by telephone by Dr. Wm. BASHUCKY, Coroner, that he had received a phone call from one of the sisters at the Indian Residential School at Camperville to the effect that one of the boys of the school had been found dead. No other particulars were received at the time.

2. The writer accompanied by Dr. Bashucky and Sgt. R.L. SHELL patrolled to the school via Dr. BASHUCKY'S private car. Father de BRETAGNE, Principal, was interviewed and gave the following statement:

BEGINN: Camperville, Man.
STATEMENT OF FATHER deBRETAGNE 8th April 1951.

DIARY DATE

Set For 30.4.51

Albert NEPINAK was a pupil of this Pine Creek Indian residential school. About 4.30 P.M. 7.4.51 I saw John FLAYFOOT, T.I., and he said "I met three of your boys and I think they were heading home". He said one was Arsene NEPINAK'S boy. As soon as John told me I went to see the Supervisor in the yard. I said John told me some boys go across the river. Then George NEPINAK says, "Yes my brothers going home I'll go and get him back."

Cont'd. page 2.

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Par. 2. Cont'd.

GET HIM BACK. Albert's father who was working on the
bern had also gone home so I was not worried when they didn't
come back. At 9.30 p.m. the little boys came back all wet
with no supper, that had gone to look for the first boys.
When they came to the river they came back because they did
not cross for fear of getting wet. I then considered Albert
and the other two were in a house at the West side of the
Reserve. I saw Arsene this morning and he said that Albert
hadn't come home. He left after the mass to go to Camille
NEPISAK'S the boy's grandfather where he thought he must be.
After dinner at 2.10 P.M. Father PELLETIER told me Paul
MOOSETAIL is here with Gordon and Lindy, two of the runaway
boys who had left with Albert. Then I suspected that Albert
might be lost. I questioned the two boys then decided to go
and hunt for him to see if he had not reached another Indian
house and at that very time Noel NEPRAU, T.I. came to tell
me that the boy had been found dead by his father. I asked
the sister to call the Coroner and went to the house to tell
the boys father Arsene not to move the body but it was already
in the house.

SIGNED REV. P. deBRETAGNE,
Principal NDSS.

3. Father de BRETAGNE explained that it is customary
if any of the boys leave that other members of the family
will go to look for them as was the case in this instance
when the deceased's brother George and two other boys started
after the three boys who had left. The boys got their
feet wet crossing the meadow and did not attempt to cross
the river but returned to the mission. He did not have any
reason to believe that the deceased was not safe with the
boys he left with until the other two were returned to the
mission by Paul MOOSETAIL.

4. The following statement was taken from Lindy
MANCHEESE, one of the boys who left with the deceased:

BEGINN: Camperville, Man.
STATEMENT OF Lindy MANCHEESE, T.I. AGE 13. April 8th., 1951.

At 4.30 yesterday, Gordon MOOSETAIL 13, and Albert
NEPIWAK left the mission with me. We walked a few miles and
came to the river on the way to Gordon MOOSETAIL'S home.
I crossed the river first. I jumped in the water and walked
and swam to the otherside. Gordon MOOSETAIL followed me
walking through it, but Albert said " I cannot go across
I am going to go back." He was about half way across the
river. Then he took his coat off, and the last I saw him
he went back across the trail we had come on. We were all
soaking wet and we were very cold when we got home. When
we got to MOOSETAIL'S I told Mrs. Paul MOOSETAIL that Albert
had been with us and went back.

SIGNED Lindy MANCHEESE. NDSS.

The statement of this boy refers to the Duck River which runs
through the reserve. Gordon MOOSETAIL could not be interviewed
at this time as his father had come to the mission and taken
him home which is six miles across the Reserve by team and it
was already 10.30 P.M.

Cont'd. Page 3.
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Par. 4 Cont'd.

WAS ALREADY 10.30 P.M. when the patrol returned to the mission

5. The patrol proceeded via the Mission Truck with father deBRETAGNE about 5 miles into the Reserve to the home of the father of the deceased. Here Dr. BASHUCKY made a thorough examination of the deceased, it was about 7.00 P.M. and the Doctor stated the boy had apparently died during the early morning hours of the same day and had been dead approximately 16 to 20 hours. He stated there were no marks of violence on the body and that the deceased had apparently died of exposure. The deceased had on dry clothes and the father explained that the one he was found in were soaking wet so he had changed them. He produced the clothes which were tied in a bundle and which consisted of Blue Denim coveralls, 1 pair brown striped pants, 1 pair of green socks, 1 pair of grey socks, Black rubber ankle boots, blue sweater, white combination underwear. These clothes were all soaking wet and were identified by the father as those the boy wore at the mission.

6. The following statement was taken from the father of the deceased:

BEGINS:

STATEMENT OF Arsene NEPINAK, T.I.

Pine Creek Reserve,
April 8th., 1951.

I went to church at 10.00 a.m. today at the mission. Father deBRETAGNE he asked me if my boy Albert NEPINAK, Age 10 was at home. I told him he wasn't. I thought he was at the mission where he stays. The father then said he had left the mission yesterday and went to the West line with some of the boys. After mass Neel NEAPRW, T.I., told me that two of the boys were at home on the West side of the reserve. Then I went to look for my boy. I took the trail he would take coming home and about two miles from home found him lying dead on the bottom of an old hay stack. I went back and got my brother Joe who was following me and he brought the horse over and we took the body back as far as another stack 200 yards away. Then Joe went home and got a team and we took his body to the house. Then I sent Neel NEAPRW to tell the priest. It was 2.00 P.M. today when I found the body. It was quite cold and stiff. I believe he died from getting wet and cold and exhausted.

SIGNED Arsene NEPINAK, REPS.

At this time Arsene NEPINAK pointed out that the boy had walked approximately 2½ to 3 miles from the point to where he had been in the river to where his body was found. At this time it was quite cold and the going was very tough the horses at times being knee deep in snow and water. The boy had been following a trail which he knew led direct to his home. The patrol accompanied by Arsene and Joe NEPINAK proceeded by team to the spot where the body was found as indicated by the boys' father. He pointed to the spot in the hay. From the look of the hay the boy had apparently tried to gather enough together to keep warm but had given up and just lay on the hay exhausted. At the time the patrol was made it was quite cold and Dr. BASHUCKY pointed out that anyone soaking wet would soon become numb with cold

Cont'd. Page 4.

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NUMB WITH COLD (Par. 6 cont'd)
and be unable to move, after which his body temperature would lower gradually to a point where his heart would cease to function. The temperature during the night would go below freezing.

7. The patrol then returned to the house of Arsene NEPINAK. The following statement was taken from Joe NEPINAK:
NEPINAK: Pine Creek Reserve, Man.
BEGINS: April 8th., 1951.

STATEMENT OF Joseph NEPINAK.

I followed my brother Arsene who went to look for his son. I was about a mile behind him on a little lake and my brother came and said he had found his son Albert's body. He showed me where he was lying on a hay stack bottom and I recognized him. We took him a little ways on my horse then I went for a team to take him home.
SIGNED Joe NEPINAK. ENDS.

8. It would appear that the deceased, accompanied by two other boys from the mission Lindy MANCHWESS, Age 13, and Gordon MOOSETAIL, Age 13, left the mission with the intention of going to the home of Paul MOOSETAIL, Gordon's father. About 4 miles from the Mission in a North Westerly direction they came to the Duck River. Here Gordon and Lindy crossed the river which was open by wading through it but Albert got half way across then turned back and got out the side he had come from. The water was bout 4 feet deep. Then he proceeded back on the trail until he came to the trail leading to his father's house. He started out along this trail but only got about 3 1/2 miles before he was over come by the cold and could go no farther and perished from exposure. There are no houses along this trail. It also appears that the other boys who were also wet thought he would get home alright as they arrived at Gordon's fathers place which was a mile and a half West of the river.

9. Dr. BASHUCKY stated that in his opinion no inquest was necessary and released the body to the boy's father for burial. The writer concurs with the opinion of the Coroner.

10. The writer would suggest that this file remain open until Gordon MOOSETAIL can be interviewed. Extra copy this report headed direct to Dr. BASHUCKY for his information extra copies attached.

S.U.I.

D.D. 23.4.51.

Cpl.
(S.B.N. Littlewood, #11752)
I.C. Winnipegosis Det.

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Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6272, file 582-23, part 1)

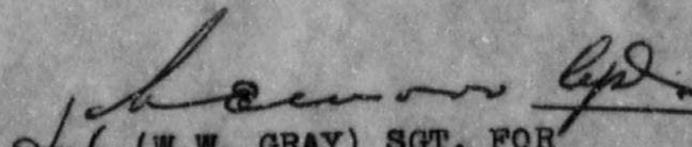
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51D 1175-45

Mr. J.H. Staunton, Dept. Indian Affairs, Dauphin, Manitoba.
FORWARDED 12-4-51, for your information, perusal, and file record.

2. From perusal of this report it appears as though the deceased, together with Gordon Moosetail and Lindy Mancheese ran away from the R.C. Indian Residential School At Camperville, Manitoba with the intention of going to the home of Gordon Moosetail. On the way to Moosetail's home they had to wade across the Duck River. The deceased who apparently decided he could not get all the way across the river, turned back from the middle of same and then tried to walk to his own home. After walking a distance of about two and a half miles he could go no further and attempted to cover himself with hay. Unable to do this the boy apparently lay on the hay exhausted and succumbed to the cold.

3. Gordon Moosetail, one of the above mentioned boys, will be interviewed in the near future and a further report will be forwarded to you in due course.


(W.W. GRAY) SGT. FOR
O.C. DAUPHIN SUB/DIV. A.O.D.

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FIELD SERVICE

12038



149/25-1-582

PLEASE QUOTE
FILE 149/23-4

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

1951 APR 19 AM 8:58 INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

537 Dominion Public Bldg.,
Winnipeg, Manitoba,
April 16, 1951.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

(Handwritten initials)

Indian Affairs Branch,
Department of Citizenship and Immigration,
Ottawa, Ontario.

I am enclosing, herewith, a copy of a letter from Superintendent Staunton and also a Police Report regarding the death of Albert Nepinakm Treaty Indian, due to exposure. Albert you will note was a pupil of the Pine Creek Indian Residential School. As death was due to exposure no one is to blame.



(Handwritten signature)

R. S. Davis,
Regional Supervisor of
Indian Agencies.

RSD/MO
Enc.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6272, file 582-23, part 1)

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CANADA

April 21, 1951.

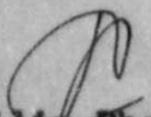
Mr. R.S. Davis,
Regional Supervisor of Indian Agencies,
537 Dominion Public Building,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Re: Pine Creek Indian Residential
School

We are in receipt of your letter of the 16th instant enclosing reports regarding the death of Albert Nepinak, pupil of the above school.

I may have gathered the wrong impression from the reports, but I am not satisfied with the action taken by the Principal. It appears that the boys ran away from the school, and yet there is no mention of any member of the staff making an attempt to locate them. It has always been felt that when pupils run away it is the duty of the staff to make an endeavour to find them and bring them back. Occurrences such as the one we are discussing reflect on our residential school system and on those operating the schools.

I would appreciate it if you would investigate this matter further at the earliest possible date, because if necessary, we must issue special instructions to the principals of all residential schools regarding the procedure that must be followed when pupils desert.


Philip Phelan,
Superintendent of Education

PP/ST

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6272, file 582-23, part 1)

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CANADA

FIELD SERVICE

36269



149/25-1-582
PLEASE QUOTE
FILE 149/23-4

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION
1951 MAY 28 AM 9:16 INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH
537 Dominion Public Bldg.,
Winnipeg, Manitoba,
May 22, 1951.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

ATTENTION: Mr. P. Phelan

Indian Affairs Branch,
Department of Citizenship and Immigration,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Re: Pine Creek Indian Residential School.

With reference to your letter of April 21st, file 149/25-1-582 (E), Inspector Marcoux went to the Pine Creek School and investigated the case further. —

The impression you have from the reports, etc., as expressed in your letter, is not quite correct, due to the fact that some details were not mentioned in the reports. The following may clarify the matter:

1. The deceased boy's father was working at the school at the time.
2. The Principal thought the boy had followed his father home. Nevertheless, he sent the boy's brother to get him.
3. The following day the father came back to the school and told the Principal that the boy was not at home, but was probably at his grandfather's home.
4. Action was taken to check on this information and a search was started. This search resulted in the finding of the body.

It appears to me that in this case reasonable steps to find the boy were taken, and no blame is attached to the Principal of the school.

R. S. Davis
Regional Supervisor of
Indian Agencies.

GHM/ES

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6272, file 582-23, part 1)

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582-23
(B6)

, May 29, 1951.

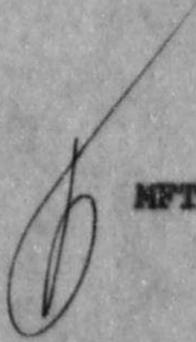
Mr. R.S. Davis,
Regional Supervisor of
Indian Agencies,
537 Dominion Public Bldg.,
Winnipeg, Man.,

Your file 149/23-4

This will acknowledge receipt
of your letter dated May 22nd dealing with
the death of Albert Nepinak pupil of the
Pine Creek Indian Residential School.

It has been noted that Inspector
Marcoux went to the Pine Creek school and
investigated the case and that you are
satisfied that in this case reasonable steps
to find the boy were taken and no blame is
attached to the Principal of the school.

Philip Phelan,
Superintendent of Education.


MFT/HM

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6272, file 582-23, part 1)

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