Title of record:	Titre du dossier :	YELLOWKNIFE AGENCY - ROCHER RIVER DAY SCHOOL - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
Hierarchical level:	Niveau hiérarchique :	File | Dossier
Item ID/MIKAN number:	N^{o} d'identification/ MIKAN :	2056111
Reference:	Référence :	RG 10, Volume number: 6474, File number: 910-1, part 1 (Part of subseries: R216-247-1-E) RG10, Numéro de volume : 6474, Numéro de dossier : 910-1, partie 1 (de la sous-série : R216-247-1-E)
Microfilm:	Microfilm :	C-8790
Start date:	Date de début :	1948
End date:	Date de fin :	1950
Number of pages:	Nombre de pages :	117
Context of record	Contexte du dossier	
Fonds:	Fonds :	Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Sous-fonds:	Sous-fonds :	Indian and Inuit Affairs and Northern Development
Series:	Série :	Headquarters Central Registry System
Subseries:	Sous-série :	School File Series (1879-1953)

This document was assembled and optimized in 2021 by Benjamin Farmer Lacombe and Jackson Pind under the supervision of Theodore Christou in the Faculty of Education at Queen's University to improve accessibility. For any use of these files other than research and personal study, please contact Library and Archives Canada.

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Indian Affairs
School Files

(RG 10, Volume 6474)

File 910-1, part 1	Yellowknife Agency - Rocher River Day School - General Administration . 1948 - 1950
File 910-5, part 1	Yellowknife Agency - Rocher River Day School - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1948 - 1950
File 915-2, part 1	Fort Norman Agency - Aklavik Roman Catholic Residential School - Quarterly Returns. 1941 - 1952
File 915-5, part 1	Fort Norman Agency - Aklavik Roman Catholic Residential School - Building Maintenance -Supplies-Accounts. 1928 - 1938
File 915-5, part 2	Fort Norman Agency - Aklavik Roman Catholic Residential School - Building Maintenance - Supplies-Accounts. 1939 - 1949
File 916-1, part 1	Fort Resolution Agency - Fort Resolution Residential School - General Administration. 1908 - 1947
File 916-2, part 1	Fort Resolution Agency - Fort Resolution Residential School - Quarterly Reports. 1939 - 1952

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FILE NO. 910-1 VOL 1

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

— INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH —

CLOSED FILE

FILE NUMBER 910-1 VOLUME 1

SUBJECT ROCHER RIVER

DAY SCHOOL

GENERAL

CORRESPONDENCE FROM JANUARY 1948

TO JANUARY 1950

NO FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

TO BE PLACED ON THIS FILE

NOTE: For subsequent correspondence relevant to the subject matter of this closed file see

FILE ..... VOLUME .....

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FILE NO. 910-1

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

SUBJECT ROCHER RIVER DAY SCHOOL GENERAL

VOLUME 1

FROM JAN. 1948

TO

REFERENCE				DISPOSAL			
REFERRED TO	BY	REMARKS	DATE	PA OR BF	BY	DATE	FOR RECORDS USE
E-4	CR9	V-155	3-7	Placed on 42139-6			
E7				Pa	am	6/7	
E	Em	8062	10/7	BF	am	19/7	
E7	Em		11/7	BF	am	14/7	
E7	Em	note B7	19/7	BF	am	14/8	
E	Em	6228	20/7	PA	[illegible]	20-7	
E	CR9	6026	21-7				
E	CR9	6027	21-7	[illegible]	[illegible]	26/7/50	
E6	E	To check figures					
E	CR9	7913 See Ennis	27-7	PA	[illegible]	29/7	
E7	E	Documents for Ennis appointment.					
E7	am	Draft app See Ennis	14/8	BF	am	23/8	
E	[illegible]	12007 See Ennis	16-8-50	Pa	am	16/8	
E7	Em	note B7	24/8	BF	am	30/8	
E7	Em	Note B7.	31/8	Pa	am	31/8	
Mitchell	[illegible]	Request re N.A.	27-10-50	Pa	[illegible]	28/10	
E6	am	5320. See Ennis	19-11-7	Pa	am	19/1/51	

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FILE NO. 910-1

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

SUBJECT ROCHER RIVER DAY SCHOOL GENERAL

VOLUME 142-5-1

FROM

TO

REFERENCE				DISPOSAL			
Referred To	By	Remarks	Date	PA or BF	By	Date	For Records Use
E	[illegible]	17015	9/12	PA	[illegible]	10/12	
Dr Proctor	E	Memo 10/12.	10/12	PA	[illegible]	11/12	
C	S	Memo	14 Nov 49	PA	[illegible]	17/12	
E	[illegible]	17771	15/12	PA	[illegible]	16/12	
E	CR-5	18491	15/12/49	PA	[illegible]	16/12	
E	EM	Dec 10	21/12	PA	[illegible]	17/12	
DIA	E	File to go	29/12	[illegible]	[illegible]	3/1/50	
E	[illegible]	21049	30/12	PA	[illegible]	7/1/50	9/1/50
E	[illegible]	2955	16/1	PA	[illegible]	18/1	
E7	E	Check with Mrs		PA	[illegible]	18/1	19/1/50
E	[illegible]	6173	27/1	PA	[illegible]		
E	[illegible]	6174	27/1	PA	[illegible]		
E6	EM	For discussion with E when returned					
E	EM	6630	30/1	PA	[illegible]		
E	EM	6174	30/1	PA	[illegible]		
				BF	[illegible]	15/2	
E	[illegible]	7718	6/2	BF	E	21-3-50	
E	[illegible]	7717	6/2	PA	[illegible]	15/2	
E	EM	Folder	6/2	BF	[illegible]	20/3	2/0
E	EM	Note BF	10/3	PA	[illegible]		
E	EM	Jan 31	30/8/50	PA	[illegible]		
E6	CR-5	19242	20/4/50	PA	[illegible]		
E	[illegible]	8904	1/5	BF	[illegible]	3/6	
E	EM	Note BF	3/6	PA	[illegible]		
E	[illegible]	21524	23/6	PA	[illegible]		
E4		Voucher (Blackburn)	26/6	[illegible]	[illegible]		

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FILE NO. 910-1

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

ROCHER RIVER
DAY SCHOOL
GENERAL

CROSS REFERENCE
142-5-1

CENTRAL REGISTRY	P.A. or B.F.	DATE	INITIALS	REFERRED TO	FOR REMARKS	INITIALS	DATE
		(If purpose for which referred cannot be expressed on one line, add minute to file, and enter here "With Minute")					
	PA	20/12		E1	7530		
	PA	20/12		Records	requires 910-5 also		17/12/48
15/5/49		23/5/49		Records	make 5 for the file		20/12
		June 30		E	26080		17/6
		30/6					
		11/7					
27/7	PA	25/7		E	4452		26/1/49
		8/8		E	2134		29/
		8/8		E	11140		1
		9/8		E	5237		3/8
	PA	26/8		E	10491		2/8
	PA	29/8		E	opp		26/8
28/9		3/10/49	E	E	15523		15/9
	PA	1/X1		E	Note B7		3/10
	PAT	1/X1		E	Memo		3/10
3/11	P.A.	3/11		E4	3655		14/10
		28/X1		E	13940		25/
				E6	for comment		25/
	PA	APP		Miss Bell	Ref		29/11
	BF	E	6/12		Memo		
	BF	AM	6/12	E7	Want answer telegram		
	PA	P	6/12	E1	14608		3/12

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FILE NO. 910-1

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
BUREAU OF NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
AND YUKON AFFAIRS

CANADA
DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
~~LANDS, PARKS AND FORESTS BRANCH~~
Lands and Development Services Branch

PLEASE QUOTE
FILE 17878

WFTB

OTTAWA, January 24, 1948.

Col. B.F. Neary, Superintendent of Welfare and
Training, Indian Affairs Branch, Booth Building,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Attached herewith for your attention
is a copy of a letter and petition under date of
January 8th from the residents of Rocher River.
It might be advisable to inform Mr. G.H. Greenaway
that your Branch has been informed of the need of
educational facilities in this area and that this
matter is at present under consideration.

J.W. McKinnon

J.W. McKinnon,
Superintendent of Schools.

Encl.

Department of Mines & Resources
Indian Affairs Branch
JAN 29 1948
P.M.
RECEIVED

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Rocher River, N.W.T.
January 8, 1948.

Dept. of Education,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the residents of Rocher River, N.W.T.,I am sending you this petition with a list of names of people residing here with children of school age.

The people feel that a school is essential so that their children can get some education.

Hoping this petition will meet with some success.

Yours truly,

sgd. G.H. Greenaway.

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COPY

Name	Witness	No. of Children
Auguste Collins		2
Gordon Greenaway		
G. Duncan		3
Paul Seamon	G.H. Greenaway	
Joe Jerome	Mrs. Madeleine Simon	
Mrs. Mary Collins		1
P. Causaway		
D. King		
W. Jerio		
Mrs. Lewin		1
Piere Alaure		1
Leo King		1
Boniface Baudrees		3
Piere South		5
Isadore Yields		2
Philip McKay		1
Alexandre King Beaulieu		2
Noel Zeale		3
Samuel Grezz		3
Piere King		4
Francis King		4
E.R. De Mielt		

(over)

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Name	Witness	No. of Children
John King		1
Mrs. Frank Delorm		2
S. Deurelt		2

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP	Date
TO:	Records
FROM:	W T

- ☐ Note and File
- ☐ Note and Return
- ☐ Please Speak
- ☐ Please Answer
- ☐ For Your Approval
- ☐ Take Appropriate Action
- ☐ As Requested
- ☐ For Information
- ☐ For Your Comments
- ☐ For Signature
- ☐ Prepare Reply For My Signature

COMMENTS: Open new file "Rocher River - Proposed Day School"

For Norman Agency
2. Send to me -

R. 3338

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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142-5-1 (E)

January 29, 1948.

G. H. Greenaway, Esq.,
Rocher River, N. W. T.

EX'D. A.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the petition forwarded on behalf of the residents of Rocher River with regard to the establishment of a school.

This letter was forwarded to me by Mr. J. W. McKinnon, Superintendent of Schools of the Bureau of Northwest Territories and Yukon Affairs.

We have included in our estimates a sum for the construction of an Indian day school at Rocher River. At present these estimates have not yet been finalized but we hope that this amount will be left in for action. However, the big difficulty will be, naturally, the actual construction of the school. We have experienced great difficulty in building day schools this last year, as contractors are simply not interested in this type of building. We have even been experimenting with prefabricated schools in order to overcome the great shortage.

I would appreciate any comments from you as to the possibility of interesting anyone in the construction of a school at Rocher River.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard F. Neary,
Supt. of Welfare & Training.

BFN/FM

Copy sent to Mr. J. W. McKinnon & to Agent at Resolution

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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142-5-1 (E)

Ottawa, April 26, 1948.

PRECIS FOR THE CLERK OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL

Establishment of Rocher River Indian Day School, Fort Norman Indian Agency, Northwest Territories. Two extra copies of Order-in-Council are required.

The undersigned has the honour to report:

THAT there are twenty-five (25) Indian children and twelve (12) non-Indian children in the Rocher River district, Fort Norman Indian Agency of the Northwest Territories, for whom educational facilities are required;

THAT the Indian Affairs Branch has agreed with the Northwest Territories and Yukon Administration to conduct a school at Rocher River for the education of Indian and non-Indian children;

THAT funds are available in Vote 218, 1948-49, Indian Affairs Branch, Department of Mines and Resources, for the establishment of a day school for these children.

The undersigned, therefore, recommends that a day school be established at Rocher River, in the Fort Norman Indian Agency of the Northwest Territories, in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 (a) of the Indian Act, Chapter 98, 1927, to be known as the "Rocher River Indian Day School".

Respectfully submitted,

Minister of Mines and Resources.

BFN/EM

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142-5-1 (E)

Ottawa, April 27, 1948.

Memorandum:

DEPUTY MINISTER

Rocher River Indian Day School, N.W.T.

Attached is Memorandum to Council requesting the establishment of an Indian Day School at Rocher River, Northwest Territories.

An amount of $40,000.00 is included in the Estimates for the fiscal year 1948-49 for the construction of a day school at this point.

Encl.

Director.

HFN/EM

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PRIVY COUNCIL CANADA

Minister of
MAY 12 1948
Mines & Resources

AT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT OTTAWA

THURSDAY, the 6th day of MAY, 1948.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL:

WHEREAS there are a number of Indian children and non-Indian children in the Fort Norman Indian Agency of the Northwest Territories, for whom educational facilities are required;

AND WHEREAS the Indian Affairs Branch has agreed with the Northwest Territories and Yukon Administration to conduct schools for the education of Indian and non-Indian children;

AND WHEREAS funds are available in Vote 218, 1948-49, Indian Affairs Branch, Department of Mines and Resources, for the establishment of day schools for these children;

THEREFORE His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Acting Minister of Mines and Resources and in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 (a) of the Indian Act, Chapter 98, 1927, is pleased to establish and doth hereby establish day schools in the Fort Norman Indian Agency of the Northwest Territories, as follows:

Location	Name of School
Fort Good Hope	Fort Good Hope Indian Day School
Fort Franklin	Fort Franklin Indian Day School
Rocher River	Rocher River Indian DaySchool
Arctic Red River	Arctic Red River Indian Day School

Certified to be a true copy

A. M. HILL
Ass't. Clerk of the Privy Council.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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142-5-1

(E)

AIRMAIL

June 9, 1948.

Dear Mr. Bellavance:

I have received your application for employment in one of our Indian day schools.

We have several vacancies which might interest you. One of these is a new school which we are now building at Rocher River, in the Northwest Territories. This will be a new school opening for the first time and the Department of Public Works is doing everything possible to have the building finished for September.

We have other vacancies as well, including two new schools near Edmonton, and others in British Columbia. We are anxious to obtain Catholic teachers for all these schools.

In view of your qualifications and experience, we would be able to offer you a salary of $192.00 a teaching month, effective 1 September, 1948.

If there are any further questions which you would like to ask concerning the Rocher River School or the others, I would be glad to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard E. Neary,
Superintendent of Education.

Mr. Norbert Bellavance,
150 Provencher Avenue,
St. Boniface, Manitoba.

Copy sent to Father Plourde and

Mr. McKinnon

BEN/EM

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT IN INDIAN DAY SCHOOLS

I. PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Name in full (please print) BELLAVANCE (Surname) NORBERT (Christian Names)

Date of Birth MAY 2ND 1897 Place of Birth LETELLIER, MAN. Sex M Religious Denomination R.C. Health GOOD Canadian Citizen BY BIRTH Service in H.M. Forces 1918-1919

II. PROFESSIONAL & ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

I attended ~~High School~~ COLLEGE at ST BONIFACE in the Province of MANITOBA and received a MATRICULATION Certificate after successfully completing 4 years of high school. I then attended MANITOBA University for a period of 4 years and received a B.A. degree (only where applicable; give other details of additional education on back).

I attended a Teacher Training Course at WINNIPEG Normal School in the Province of MANITOBA for 4 months in the years 1922

I hold a SECOND Class Teacher's Certificate of a PERMANENT (temporary or permanent) nature in the Provinces of MANITOBA, SASK. It is numbered 1586-24 dated JULY 20/24 and is valid until .....

III. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

	Dates	Name of School	Town and Province	Total Years
1.	Sept. 1917 - Dec. 1917	Normandin	Fort Creek, Man.	½
2.	Jan. 1923 - Dec. 1923	Dunvoulin	Fletcher Branch, Man.	1
3.	Jan. 1924 - Dec. 1924	?	Bruxelles, Man.	1
4.	Jan. 1925 - July 1932	?	Saskatchewan	7½
5.	Mar. 1933 - July 1935	Pine Creek	Camperville, Man.	2½

(use other side for more detail)

My total teaching experience is 13½ years in Indian Schools and 10 years in Provincial Schools.

IV. SUMMER SCHOOLS - In order to qualify for salary increments as shown in the schedule, I certify that I have attended the following professional summer schools conducted by Provincial Departments of Education or Canadian Universities for a duration of four weeks or more in length:

	Year	Course taken	By whom course was conducted	Length of Course in weeks
1.				
2.				
3.				

V. SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS

List any special qualifications you have for Indian work Experience and knowledge of Indian customs and dialect

VI. REFERENCES and INSPECTOR'S REPORTS

Please attach copies of references and your latest Inspector's Report (if any).

VII. I therefore request, in view of my qualifications and experience as detailed above, that I be classified as a Grade ? teacher and that my salary as a teacher in the ..... Indian Day School for the 1947-48 academic year be set at $..... according to the salary schedule.

I understand (i) that all salary increases are clearly described in the schedule regulations as for "satisfactory service", (ii) that therefore it will be necessary for the Indian Affairs Branch to carefully consider School Inspectors' and other reports submitted upon my teaching service. (Note: Details of our salary schedule are available in all Indian Agency offices. If the application is sent in with part of Section VII left blank, we will inform you of the salary you would receive in our service).

June 2nd 1948 (date).

Norbert Bellavance (Signature)

150 Provencher Ave.
St Boniface, Man.
(Address)

325

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DATES	NAME OF SCHOOL	TOWN & PROVINCE	TOTAL YEARS
July 1935 - July 1938	Industrial	Fort Frances, Ont.	3
Sept. 1938 - Mar. 1944	Indian Day	Little Grand Rapids, Man.	6
Sept. 1944 - Dec. 1944	Ebb & Flow	Reedy Creek, Man.	½
Dec. 1945 - Sept. 1947	Native Day	Telkwa, B.C.	1½

P.S. I am willing to accept an Indian school in any part of the Dominion, although I would prefer one among the "Saulteaux" Indians, as I have some knowledge of their dialect.

Herbert Bellavance

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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1. Records
2. Rock River
3 F

150 Provencher Ave.
St Boniface, Man.
June 16th 1948

Mr. B. F. Heary
Superintendent of Education
Indian Affairs Branch
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:- RE FILE: 142-5-1

In reply to your letter of the 9th instant, I wish to say that the Rocker River School would suit me, as I'm very fond of the North.

If possible, I would appreciate your supplying me with a map of the N.W.T., so I'll know the exact location of the school in question.

I would also appreciate particulars about the living accommodations there, so I'll know what I need to take along in the line of furniture, bedding, and kitchen utensils.

There is one suggestion I wish to submit for your consideration with

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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regard to dental care among Indians. I've often wished I had known how to freeze gums and pull teeth, as most Indian Reservations are not within easy access of a dentist; and consequently, Indians have to suffer weeks (if not months) before they can have an aching tooth attended to. If the Department were willing to reimburse the dentist's fees, I would be only too glad to arrange with a local dentist to give me the lessons required to enable me to perform this needed service to Indians.

If you have any available information as to the means of travel in order to reach Rocher River, I'd be glad to have it.

Yours very truly,

Norbert R. Lavance

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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142-5-1

PAO Rocher River 1

Extract from Annual Report on Rocher River of the Fort Resolution Northwest Territories Agency, dated 1947-48.

Rocher River.

42 Indian families, totalling 96 Indians live at Rocher River. The Half-Breed and white people increase the population to 140. Approximately 25 miles up the Taltson River is another settlement - Rat River, where a few Indians and white trappers live. For the purpose of this report Rocher River and Rat River are considered as one settlement.

Rocher River is an ideal location for an Indian Village. Fishing is good and caribou are available during the open season. Fur is by no means plentiful but there is enough, including the spring rat hunt, to afford a living to an Indian who will try to support his family.

In spite of the above, and even though the Indians are Chipewyans of the same band as those at Fort Resolution and Snowdrift, Rocher River is the dirtiest and most poverty-stricken settlement in the agency. I flew into Rocher River early last June and the stench of garbage and rotting caribou hides tossed out of the front doors and along the river bank where the dogs are tied the uncleanliness of the homes and the general filth of the settlement were a revelation. The place was cleaned up somewhat when I threatened prosecution under the Public Health Ordinance but probably will be just as dirty this spring.

The people at Rocher River make very little effort to support themselves and none at all to improve their conditions. During a recent visit I found caribou drying in only one house, that of the Chief, Pierre Frise. The usual routine is to sleep all morning then to loaf and play cards for the remainder of the day and all night.

These people are almost completely demoralized. I recently treated a 14 year old girl for V.D.C. and found her to be four months pregnant. Three white trappers, brothers, of Rate River have been fathers of illegitimate babies by Treaty Indian women, the youngest brother becoming a father in January of this year. Several girls have had more than one illegitimate child and several Treaty Indian women, some of them married, are living with Half-Breeds in common-law status.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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The only reason that I can see for the situation at Rocher River is the influence of the white people who live in that settlement. Mr. E.R. DeMelt, a free trader and his common-law wife, Mrs. Rose Metcalfe, came to Rocher River approximately ten years ago. They run a small store and a small sawmill. In addition, Mr. DeMelt has a trapping license.

The Rocher River Inaidns require help, not financial assistance but mental stimulation. The natural resources could very easily sustain the population. There is no place within a hundred miles of Rocher River and Rat River which is as suitable for people living in the Indian fashion.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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142-5-1

Orig. on 124-8-1 (E)

July 16, 1948.

Dear Mr. Bellavance:

I understand that you are interested in two of our schools, namely Rocher River, in the Northwest Territories, and Seine River, in the Fort Frances Agency, Ontario.

I am now able to advise you that the Rocher River School will not likely be completed by the end of the summer holidays and therefore will not likely be open during the 1948-49 academic year. However, we do have a school in the Northwest Territories, at Fort Norman, which might interest you. It has now been open for two years and has been operated by the wife of one of the Signallers stationed there by the Department of National Defence. As pointed out in my letter of June 9, you would be entitled, in all probability, to a Northern Living Allowance if you accepted this school.

I would like to hear from you as soon as possible as to whether you wish to accept either the Seine River School or the Fort Norman School.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education.

Mr. Norbert Bellavance,
150 Provencher Avenue,
St. Boniface, Manitoba.

BFN/EM

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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8.2

910-1

Extract from report from Mr. Johnston, District Engineer dated October 18th on the Rocher River Day School.

RE: ROCHER RIVER.

The 2 Classroom Day School and Teachers' Quarters has been erected and has outside finish on the walls and a built-up tar and gravel roof recently completed by a roofing contractor from Edmonton. The roughing-in has been done for electricity. The hot-air furnace and heating ducts are now being installed. It was not possible for the plumbing contractor to deliver materials to destination this year, owing, in part to the lateness in which the contract was let, and also to the fact that there are only about four boats per season from Fort Smith to this point. Carpenter work has advanced to a point where three carpenters could finish by early December. Work on this project was closed down for the season on the 16th instant, largely due to the impossibility of having a generator delivered which was necessary for operation of the blower in connection with the hot-air furnace. I wrote you by letter # 2961 on October 6th, in reference to specifications calling for a fully automatic electric generating machine and the reluctance of firms to supply this unit. I am still awaiting your instructions if a manually controlled machine could be installed.

So far as I know, no desks or classroom fittings have been received at Rocher River, and there is no furniture on hand for the teachers' quarters. In fact the arrival of these fittings, furniture and so forth, at a settlement where there is little, if any, warehouse storage space, presents a problem and it is doubtful if such should be delivered until the school building is ready to receive these articles, which represent a considerable investment. It should, however, be possible to begin work next spring on the school project and have it completed early in June when the first boat arrives there. Incoming shipments of furniture, classroom supplies, fittings, rations for the teacher and so forth should be scheduled to arrive on the first boat arriving at Rocher River next year. That would permit the opening of school by July 1st if this were desired. TO REACH WATERWAYS MAY 15TH FOR FORWARDING BY HUDSON'S BAY CO.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
AND YUKON SERVICES

T 14

910 - 1

CANADA

PLEASE QUOTE
FILE 17878

7530

DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
LANDS AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BRANCH

OTTAWA, December 13, 1948.

Col. B. F. Neary, Superintendent of Education, Indian Affairs Branch, Capital Theatre Building, 220 Queen St., Ottawa.

For your information and any necessary action I am enclosing copy of a letter received from Mr. G. E. Duncan, Hudson's Bay Manager, Rocher River, N. W. T.

J. W. McKinnon

Encl.

J. W. McKinnon,
Inspector of Schools.

DEC 14 1948
A.M.
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C
O
P
Y

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
Incorporated 2nd May 1670

ROCHER RIVER, N.W.T.

12th November, 1948.

J. W. McKinnon, Esq.,
342 Lisgar Road,
Rockcliffe Park,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of October 16th.

Regarding the school supplies, most of these have arrived and in my warehouse at present there is a very heavy case which I have reason to believe contains school stationery, pencils, etc. There may be more stored in Demelt's warehouse. I know the little furniture that came in is stored there at present. No school desks arrived yet.

Mail continues to arrive for the principal and I am taking care of that end of it. There is also a complete sound movie projector for the school and a radio and gramophone record player for the teacher.

Before a teacher could commence duties here, the schoolroom would have to be finished and temporary desks made for the pupils. The installation of an electric plant is essential for both light and heat. The heating system is already installed but power is required to force the heat to the various rooms through the circulatory vents.

I need not remind you that everyone here is anxiously awaiting the completion of the school building so that the children can start with their studies. Should you decide to send in a teacher before the rest of the school building is completed we could always put him up at the "Bay".

Yours sincerely,

'sgd' G. E. Duncan.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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910-1 (E)

December 20, 1948.

Mr. J. W. McKinnon,
Inspector of Schools,
Northwest Territories and Yukon Services,
Dept. of Mines & Resources,
Norlite Building, Ottawa, Ont.

Rocher River Indian Day School.

I have for answer your letter of December 13 with attached letter from Mr. Duncan, of the Hudson's Bay Company, Rocher River, N. W. T.

I appreciate the information contained therein but I am afraid that there is no action which I can take. As you are probably aware, no further building can take place at Rocher River until the question of re-designing the heating unit has been settled. I have already wired Mr. Hunter concerning the arranging of local watchman services for this building. It is quite likely that Mr. Duncan could arrange to see that no vandalism occurs, pending the arrival of a teacher next summer.

Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education.

BFN/EM

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910-1
~~910-4~~
~~910-5~~

NOTE FOR FILE:

There is no Post Office at Rocher River. All correspondence to this school should be forwarded to:

Dr. L.J. Mulvihill,
Supt. of Indian Agency,
Fort Resolution, N.W.T.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6772, File 910-1, part 1)

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Hay River, N.W.T.
June 6th 1949

E 1

910-1

Mr. B. F. Neary
Supt. of Education
Indian Affairs Branch

26060

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of May 26th, in connection with my transfer, I wish to state that I accept Rocher River, there being no other choice.

I would not consider staying on here, even if there were three teachers to help me, simply because I don't enjoy living among narrow minded people such as are some of the local Protestants who were opposed to my taking charge of the school on the grounds that I am Catholic.

From a financial angle, however, I would be tempted to consider being hired as janitor for this school, as the janitor's monthly salary is $225.00: which is $33.00 more than the teacher's salary; and I doubt if he works an average of four hours per day.

Yours very truly,

Horbert Bellavance

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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P.A. 910-1

905-1 (E)

Ottawa, June 27, 1949.

J.W. McKinnon, Esq.,
Education Division,
Northwest Territories Administration,
Yellowknife, N. W. T.

RETEL HAY RIVER SCHOOL STOP HAVE PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN RELEVANCE ADVISING HIS TRANSFER ROCHER RIVER APPROVED STOP SHOULD I CANCEL THIS TRANSFER STOP HAVE OBTAINED SERVICES TWO PROTESTANT TEACHERS HAY RIVER STOP MISTER BOWERMAN HAS SIXTEEN YEARS EXPERIENCE AND HIS WIFE HAS ALSO TAUGHT PRIMARY GRADES STOP ANXIOUS OBTAIN SERVICES RC PRINCIPAL FOR REASONS KNOWN TO YOU

Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education.

PHONED TO: A.S.
PHONED BY: G.M.
TIME: 12.50

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910-1

ARMY SIGNAL
0910 HRS JULY 26/49

4452

E

YELLOWKNIFE JULY 25/49

B.F. NEARY

RE YOUR MESSAGE JULY 25 BELLEVANCE ENTIRELY UNSATISFACTORY STOP SUGGEST ENGAGE YOUNG WELL QUALIFIED MARRIED MAN FOR ROCHER RIVER AS SUCCESS OF THIS SCHOOL DEPENDS UPON SELECTION OF TEACHER STOP FEEL HAY RIVER SCHOOL COMPLETELY ruined BY POOR TEACHER FIRST YEAR STOP WILL TAKE VERY GOOD TEACHER YEAR OR TWO TO OVERCOME DAMAGE DONE THERE.

MCKINNON

Department of Mines & Resources
Indian Affairs Branch
JUL 26 1949
A.M.
REGISTERED

MT/AS

COPIED: V.S.

Note
Army Sigs are checking on this word. They were unable to — just called to say the word is "ruined".
A.S.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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C.A.F.B. 1531 (4 PARTS)
250M-10-48 (691)
H.Q. [illegible]4-21-B1531

UNCLASSIFIED

ARMY MESSAGE
(OUTGOING)

FILE: 905-1 (E)

PLACE: Ottawa

DATE: July 26, 1949

Mr. N. Bellavance,
Hay River School,
Hay River, N.W.T.

AM ADVISED BY SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION N.W.T. THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN INDIAN SCHOOL NOT IN N.W.T.-stop-IF SO HAVE VACANCY IN MANITOBA AND ALSO AT FOND DU LAC, SASK. -stop-BOTH REQUIRE CATHOLIC TEACHER. ADVISE IF YOU PREFER TO ROCHER RIVER-stop-WILL THEN PROVIDE DETAILS.

Bernard F. Neary,
Supt. of Indian Education.

PHONED TO: AS

PHONED BY: MM

TIME: 12.15

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNATURE	DEGREE OF PRIORITY	TIME OF ORIGIN
SIGNED		

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250M-10-48 (891)
224-21-B1531

ARMY MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED (OUTGOING) FILE: 910-1 (E)

PLACE Ottawa, DATE July 26 1949

Mr. J.W. McKinnon,
Education Division,
Northwest Territories Administration,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

RETEL ROCHER RIVER AM OFFERING BELLAVANCE TRANSFER OUTSIDE NORTHERN N.W.T. SUGGEST HE PROCEED FOND DU LAC DAY SCHOOL, ~~NOTHERN~~ SASK. -stop- CAN YOU INFLUENCE HIM ACCEPT TRANSFER-stop- WILL TRY LOCATE ANOTHER TEACHER ROCHER RIVER -stop-

Bernard F. Neary,
Supt. of Indian Education.

PHONED TO: C.A.

PHONED BY: J.J.

TIME: 12.15.

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNATURE	DEGREE OF PRIORITY	TIME OF ORIGIN
SIGNED	.....	.....

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908-1 (E)

, July 26, 1949

Mr. J.E. Blackburn,
Box 6,
St. Norbert, Manitoba.

Fort Good Hope Indian Day School

Dear Mr. Blackburn:

While I have been writing to you about Fort Good Hope, I have always kept in mind your original interest in the Rocher River School. I have been trying to interest Mr. Bellavance who originally planned to transfer to this school from Hay River to accept a school in Northern Saskatchewan. I feel that the Rocher River School is a preferable one for you as it is closer to civilization at Yellowknife and Fort Resolution; it is easier to reach and the school will be completed in the next fortnight.

Therefore I wired Mr. Bellavance today, requesting a decision from him concerning his immediate plans. I will write to you as soon as I get a reply. In the meantime I thought I would write you to ensure that you are still interested in Rocher River . The school building is ofcourse identical with Fort Good Hope.

Bernard F. Neary,
Supt. of Indian Education.

BFN:MMcN

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

910-1

2134 LANDS, PARKS AND FORESTS BRANCH

Box 117,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.,
July 14, 1949.

Colonel B. F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education,
Indian Affairs Branch,
Department of Mines and Resources,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Colonel Neary:

I have a wire from Mr. W. J. Johnston, D.P.W., Edmonton, advising that the Rocher River School will be completed and the crew, under W.G. Wallace, will leave on the morning of Saturday, July 23rd. Mr. Johnston would like instructions as to whom the keys of the buildings should be handed and when they should be handed over.

Yours very truly,

J. W. McKinnon

J. W. McKinnon,
Superintendent of Education,
Mackenzie District, N.W.T.

Department of Mines & Resources Indian Affairs Branch
JUL 18 1949
A.M.
REGISTERED

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
NORTH [redacted] TERRITORIES
AND [redacted] SERVICES

910-1

PLEASE QUOTE
FILE.....

CANADA

DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
LANDS AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BRANCH

4140

Box 117,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.,
July 21, 1949.

Colonel B. F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education,
Indian Affairs Branch,
Department of Mines and Resources,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Colonel Neary:

Attached, herewith, is a copy of letter received from Mr. Art Rook, who is interested in a caretaking position in connection with the new Rocher River Indian Day School. I have also enclosed a copy of our reply.

Yours very truly,

J.W. McKinnon

J.W. McKinnon,
Superintendent of Education,
Mackenzie District, N.W.T.

Encl. 2.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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Rocher River,
N.W.T..
July 3rd-/49

Dear Mr. McKinnon:

Now that you have finished the school I was wondering if you have hired someone as janitor or caretaker to clean the school, keep fires and look after the engines.

If not I would like to apply for the position.

I am married and have two children school age and my wife would be willing to help towards cleaning the place. I have a fairly good knowledge of engines and am sure I could fulfill my obligations.

Would you reply immediately stating wages, etc. if the position is open.

Thanking you in advance.

I am Sincerely

(Signed) Art Look.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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Box 117,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.,
July 21, 1949.

Mr. Art Look,
Rocher River,
Northwest Territories.

Dear Mr. Look:

Tahnk you for your letter of July wrd regarding the position of caretaker for the Rocher River School.

As this school is the property of the Indian Affairs Branch, I have forward your letter to Colonel B. F. Neary, Superintendent of Education, Indian Affairs Branch, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa, for his attention. No doubt you will hear from him in the near future.

Yours very truly,

J.W. McKinnon

J.W. McKinnon,
Superintendent of Education,
Mackenzie District, N.W.T.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
NORTH[redacted] TERRITORIES
AND [redacted]ON SERVICES

910 - 1

PLEASE QUOTE
FILE.....

CANADA
DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
LANDS AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BRANCH

5237

JUL 27 1949 A.M. REGISTERED

Box 117,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.,
July 26, 1949.

R.A. Gibson, Esquire,
Deputy Commissioner,
Northwest Territories Administration,
Department of Mines and Resources,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Kellett, of the Department of Public Works, Edmonton, called at the office yesterday. He told me that the Rocher River School was now completed and that they keys for the school were left with Mr. Duncan, the Hudson's Bay Manager.

He asked me to write to the Indian Affairs Branch regarding Mr. George A. McCallum of Rocher River. Mr. Kellett is of the opinion that Mr. McCallum is the only person in Rocher River qualified to act as caretaker of the school.

Mr. McCallum spent four years in the R.C.A.F. and has considerable mechanical training. Mr. Kellett felt that Mr. McCallum's service as caretaker at $125 per month would be justified as mechanical training would be required in order to care for the equipment.

I am leaving it with the Indian Affairs Branch to write Mr. McCallum concerning this matter.

Yours very truly,

J.W. McKinnon

J.W. McKinnon,
Superintendent of Education,
Mackenzie District, N.W.T.

c.c. Col. Neary.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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H.Q. 224-21-81531

ARMY MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED (OUTGOING) FILE: 910-1

PLACE DATE

Ottawa August 2, 1949.

Mr. J.W. McKinnon,
Supt. of Education,
Yellowknife, Y.T.

BELLAVANCE WILL TRANSFER HAY RIVER TO FOND DU LAC -stop-
AM SENDING MR AND MRS BLACKBURN TO ROCHER RIVER INSTEAD
OF FORT GOOD HOPE -stop- SHE IS QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED
TEACHER -stop- DETAILS BY LETTER -stop- ADVISE DUNCAN HBC
AT ROCHER RIVER

Bernard F. Neary,
Supt. of Indian Education.

PHONED TO: [illegible]

PHONED BY: [illegible]

TIME: [illegible]

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNATURE	DEGREE OF PRIORITY	TIME OF ORIGIN
SIGNED	.....	.....

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FM JCEY55/J W MCKINNON SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION
YELLOWKNIFE NWT 252204Z

TO COLONEL B F NEARY SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES OTTAWA ONT

GRNC

RE YOUR MESSAGE JULY TWENTY FIVE BELLEVANCE ENTIRELY UNSATISFACTORY STOP SUGGEST ENGAGE YOUNG WELL QUALIFIED MARRIED MAN FOR ROCHER RIVER AS SUCCESS OF THIS SCHOOL DEPENDS UPON SELECTION OF TEACHER STOP FEEL HAY RIVER SCHOOL COMPLETELY ~~RUINED~~ RUINED BY POOR TEACHER FIRST YEAR STOP WILL TAKE VERY GOOD TEACHER YEAR OR TWO TO OVERCOME DAMAGE DONE THERE
252253Z

Department of Mines & Resources Indian Affairs Branch AUG 3 1949 A.M. RECORDS

ARMY MESSAGE - ADDRESS QUERIES LOCAL ARMY SIGNAL OFFICE

C.A.F.B. 1442C 1250M-11-48 (1677) H.Q. 224-21-8-1442

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FOR EMPLOYMENT IN INDIAN DAY SCHOOLS

I. (Please print) Blackburn, John E.
(Surname) (Christian Names)
Date October 1st 1909 Place of Birth Montreal
Sex Male Religious Denomination Roman Catholic Health very good
Canadian Citizen Yes Service in H. M. Forces ———

II. PROFESSIONAL & ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS
I attended high school at Rigaud in the Province of Que. and received a Superior Commercial Certificate after successfully completing 4 years of high school. I then attended ——— University for a period of ——— years and received a ——— degree (only where applicable; give other details of additional education on back).
I attended a Teacher Training Course at ——— Normal School in the Province of ——— for ——— months in the years ———
I hold a ——— Class Teacher's Certificate of a ——— ——— (temporary or permanent) nature in the Province of ——— ——— It is numbered ——— dated ——— and is valid until ———

III. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

	Dates	Name of School	Town and Province	Total Years
1.	1937-1946	St. Therese St.	Island Lake	9
2.	———	R.C. Indian Day	Man.	———
3.	———	———	———	———
4.	———	———	———	———
5.	———	———	———	———

(use other side for more detail)

My total teaching experience is 9 years in Indian Schools and ——— years in Provincial Schools.

IV. SUMMER SCHOOLS - In order to qualify for salary increments as shown in the schedule, I certify that I have attended the following professional summer schools conducted by Provincial Departments of Education or Canadian Universities for a duration of four weeks or more in length:

	Year	Course taken	By whom course was conducted	Length of Course in weeks
1.	———	———	———	———
2.	———	———	———	———
3.	———	———	———	———

V. SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS
List any special qualifications you have for Indian work Golden Opportunity, Field Work such as Old Folks Home plan etc. according to reports held by Dept.

VI. REFERENCES and INSPECTOR'S REPORTS
Please attach copies of references and your latest Inspector's Report (if any)

VII. I therefore request, in view of my qualifications and experience as detailed above, that I be classified as a Grade ——— teacher and that my salary as a teacher in the ——— Indian Day School for the 1948-49 academic year be set at $ ——— according to the salary schedule.

I understand (i) that all salary increases are clearly described in the schedule regulations as for "satisfactory service", (ii) that therefore it will be necessary for the Indian Affairs Branch to carefully consider School Inspectors' and other reports submitted upon my teaching service.
(Note: Details of our salary schedule are available in all Indian Agency offices. If the application is sent in with part of Section VII left blank, we will inform you of the salary you would receive in our service).

May 17th 1949 (date)

J. E. Blackburn (Signature)
Box 6
St. Norbert, Man. (Address)

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Note: I took 4 years classical studies in Montreal and Lipton with private teachers & councils. Studies were at Montreal Seminary.

Graduation at Rigaud with distinction.

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908-1

(E)

July 11, 1949.

Mr. J. E. Blackburn,
Box 6,
St. Norbert, Manitoba.

Fort Good Hope Indian Day School.

Dear Mr. Blackburn:

Your letter of June 14 arrived during my absence from Ottawa on an inspection trip. I have today sent the following wire to Mr. W. J. Johnston, District Engineer, Department of Public Works, Edmonton, Alberta, concerning the completion of this school:

"HAVE EMPLOYED TEACHER AND WIFE FORT GOOD HOPE SCHOOL -stop- ADVISE WHEN THEY CAN LEAVE EDMONTON FOR POSITION".

The salaries which we would offer at this school for yourself and your wife as welfare teachers would be as follows:

(1) Mrs. Blackburn as Grade II Welfare Teacher at a salary of $2,340.00 a calendar year;

(2) Mr. Blackburn as a Grade I Welfare Teacher at a salary of $1,560.00 a calendar year.

We would employ one of you as a welfare teacher when the average attendance of the school pupils was below 30

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and both of you when the attendance arose above that number. In other words, during the summer months you would both receive salary as indicated above.

With regard to the payment of Northern Living Allowances, I am referring this matter to our Personnel Officer so that he can advise me whether you would both receive the allowance, or not.

With respect to transportation, I am advised that the best way of handling this is for you to pay your transportation in to Fort Good Hope (that is for your family and yourself) and then submit the receipts here by airmail, when a travelling expense cheque can be mailed to you.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education.

BFN/EM

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250M-10-48 (691)
H.Q. 224-21-81531

ARMY MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED (OUTGOING) FILE: 910-1 (E)

PLACE DATE

Ottawa August 15 1949

MAGISTRATE MARTIN
Hay River Northwest Territories

RE ROCHER RIVER SCHOOL MR AND MRS BLACKBURN TEACHERS LEAVING EDMONTON AUGUST TWENTIETH -stop- CAN YOU ARRANGE OVER NIGHT ACCOMMODATION HAY RIVER TEACHERAGE IF NECESSARY -

Bernard F Neary
Superintendent of Education

CONFIRMATION

Phoned to: .....

Phoned by: .....

Time: .....

BFN/EM

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNATURE	DEGREE OF PRIORITY	TIME OF ORIGIN
SIGNED	.....	.....

COPY 3

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AIRMAIL

910-1 (E)

August 15, 1949.

Mr. J E. Blackburn,
Box 6,
St. Norbert, Manitoba.

Dear Mr. Blackburn:

Please find attached the following documents which I would like to have completed by both your wife and yourself:

(1) T.D.1 (Income Tax) form
(2) Employee Questionnaire form
(3) Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Office and Secrecy forms.

I am also attaching a copy of the Northern Living Allowance Regulations which cover the various points which you might wish to enquire about at a later date.

I have been advised that there is an electric generating plant at the school and that we will be required to have a man who can handle this machine. Therefore, when you are not teaching, we could pay you an amount of $30.00 a month extra to maintain this motor. Naturally, when you are teaching, this extra amount will not be allowed. I have good news also with regard to Mrs. Blackburn's salary. The welfare teachers' Salary Schedule has been revised and she will now be entitled to $2,520.00 a calendar year.

When in Edmonton, I would suggest that you contact Mr. W. J. Johnston, the District Engineer of the Department of Public Works, who has just recently returned from Rocher River. His address is 9937 - 103rd Street, Edmonton.

If you will return the attached documents as soon as possible, it will help us when you are placed on our salary list.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education.

BFN/EM ENCL

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						D.H.

SEND THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS ON THE BACK HEREOF:

Colonel B. F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education,
Indian Affairs Branch,
Department of Mines and Resources,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

July 25, 1949.

RE YOUR MESSAGE JULY TWENTY-FIVE BELLEVANCE ENTIRELY UNSATISFACTORY stop SUGGEST ENGAGE YOUNG WELL QUALIFIED MARRIED MAN FOR ROCHER RIVER AS SUCCESS OF THIS SCHOOL DEPENDS UPON SELECTION OF TEACHER stop FEEL HAY RIVER SCHOOL COMPLETELY RUINED BY POOR TEACHER FIRST YEAR stop WILL TAKE VERY GOOD TEACHER YEAR OR TWO TO OVERCOME DAMAGE DONE THERE.

N.D.—G.F. 4—1,500 Pads of 100—11-48 (2834)

J. . McKinnon,
Sup

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ROCHER RIVER ~~405-910~~-

10491

E

HAY RIVER
22 AUGUST 1949

MR NEARY

BLACKBURNS HAVE NOT ARRIVED HERE TO DATE

D.J.MARTIN

MT/EP

Miss Moore
This must be about the Blackburns who were to stay overnight on their way to Rocher River.
CARE.
23/8

AUG 23 1949
A.M.
REGISTERED

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H.Q. 224-21-81531

ARMY MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED (OUTGOING) FILE: 910-1 (E3)

PLACE: Ottawa, Ont. DATE: August 25, 1949.

Mr. J.W. McKinnon,
Superintendent of Education,
Box 117, Yellowknife, NWT.

and

Magistrate Martin,
Hay River, NWT.

YOUR MESSAGES REGARDING BLACKBURNS -stop- THEY PROPOSED LEAVING EDMONTON AUGUST TWENTY WITH STOPOVER AT HAY RIVER -stop- MARTIN ADVISES THEY DID NOT REPEAT NOT ARRIVE MONDAY -stop- COMMUNICATE WITH MARTIN AND INFORM THIS OFFICE WHEN THEY ARRIVE ROCHER RIVER -stop-

CAFC:ST

Bernard F. Neary,
Supt. of Indian Education

CONFIRMATION:

PHONED TO: GM

PHONED BY: CAFC

TIME: 1545

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNATURE	DEGREE OF PRIORITY	TIME OF ORIGIN
C.J. Clark		1510

SIGNED .....

COPY 2

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DOMINION OF CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REVENUE—TAXATION DIVISION

T.D. 1
(Revised April 1949)

INDIVIDUAL

Tax Deduction Declaration

TO BE COMPLETED BY EMPLOYEES: ● To establish the amount of tax to be deducted from earnings *or*
● To claim exemption from tax deductions

Complete and file one copy of this declaration with your employer: (a) when you commence employment, and (b) when there is a change in the personal exemptions to be claimed for tax deductions.
If this declaration is not completed, deductions will be made as for a single person without dependents.

My family or last name is (Print)	BLACKBURN
My Christian or first names are	John Edmond
My present address is	Rocher River
	Northwest Territories
My employer is	My Unemployment Insurance No. is

PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS

(If this is wife's declaration, read "Husband" for "Wife")

BASIC EXEMPTION FOR EVERYONE . . . . . Enter $1,000 ▶ $.....

ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS IF APPLICABLE

1. AGE 65 OR OVER . . . . . Year of birth_____ . . . Enter $ 500 ▶ $.....

2. MARRIED OR EQUIVALENT EXEMPTION

Married

Married, and supporting wife other than by alimony or separation allowance and:

YOU MAY NOT CLAIM MORE THAN ONE OF THESE

A. Income of wife $250 or less . . . . . Enter $1,000 ▶ $.....

B. Income of wife over $250 but not over $1,000: Simplified Calculation $ 1,250
Less income of wife $.....
Enter Balance ▶ $.....

NOTE: If income of wife is more than $1,000 you may not claim either Married or Equivalent Exemption. Exclude from income of wife exempt income, such as Family Allowances, Unemployment Insurance, Sickness and Accident Insurance Benefits, and War Service payments or credits.

Equivalent Exemption

C. For support of a Dependent Son or Daughter—
Under age 21, *or* any age if mentally or physically infirm . . . . . Enter $1,000 ▶ $.....

D. For support of Other Dependent Person—Related by blood, marriage or adoption and maintained in your dwelling . . . . . Enter $1,000 ▶ $.....

3. DEPENDENTS EXEMPTIONS

Dependent Children

If you have claimed $1,000 on account of a dependent child, you **MAY NOT** claim for that child here unless you support the child in a dwelling wherein you employ a full-time housekeeper or servant.

A. Qualified for Family Allowances . . . . . (Number) × $ 150 ▶ $.....

B. Not qualified for Family Allowances—
Under age 21, *or* any age if mentally or physically infirm . . . (Number) × $ 400 ▶ $.....

Other Dependents

You may claim the amount EXPENDED in support of the following up to a maximum of $150 for each dependent qualified for Family Allowances or $400 if not qualified, but you **MAY NOT** claim here for any dependents already claimed.

C. Brothers or sisters (including in-laws)—Under age 21, *or* any age if mentally or physically infirm ▶ $.....

D. Parents or grandparents (including in-laws)—Mentally or physically infirm . . . . . ▶ $.....

TOTAL PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS . . . . . $.....

LIST CHILDREN AND OTHER DEPENDENTS CLAIMED EXCEPT WIFE
Attach list if space insufficient

Name	Relationship	Age	Name	Relationship	Age

TAX DEDUCTION EXEMPTION CLAIM

For use by an employee liable for tax deductions, but who claims exemption because his total earnings for the full calendar year (including free board and lodging) will be less than the personal exemptions claimed above. This may occur because of casual, seasonal, or part-year employment.

Income to date this year . . . . . $.....

Earnings for balance of year at present employment . . . . . $.....

Total estimated earnings for year . . . . . $.....

NOTE: This Tax Deduction Exemption Claim applies to the current year only. Employers will be required to make tax deductions commencing 1st January of the following year unless a new Tax Deduction Exemption Claim is filed.

CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the information given in this declaration is true, correct and complete in every respect.

Date August 22nd 1949

J. E. Blackburn
Signature

THERE ARE PENALTIES FOR MAKING A FALSE DECLARATION.

Tax Deduction Exemption Claim by United States Residents

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am a resident of the United States of America temporarily employed in Canada for a period or periods not exceeding a total of ninety days in the calendar year, and that my total remuneration from employment in Canada during the calendar year will not exceed $1,500 in such year.

Date_____ 19____

_____
Signature

EMPLOYERS MUST RETAIN THIS COMPLETED DECLARATION FOR INSPECTION BY OFFICERS OF THE TAXATION DIVISION

Form prescribed and authorized by the Minister of National Revenue.

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EMPLOYEE QUESTIONNAIRE

To be filled by all employees when taken on strength of the Department of Mines and Resources. This form may be filled in ink. To be given to Superior who will transmit same to the Director's office where this form will be forwarded to the Personnel Section, Administration and Personnel Branch.

Surname.....Blackburn.....

Christian Names (in full).....John Edmund.....

Indicate Mr. Miss or Mrs. .....Mr.....

City, Town, etc., where you work.....Rocher River, N.W.T.

U.I.C. Book number.....

Do you contribute towards Civil Service Insurance?.....Yes.....

Do you contribute towards Civil Service Mutual Benefit Society?...No.....

Do you contribute towards Civil Service Cooperation Credit Society?...No.....

Marital Status.....Married.....

If married woman, your maiden name.....

Date of Birth October 1st 1909..Place of Birth.....Montreal.....

Racial Origin.....Canadian.....Natural Born or Naturalized?.....Natural.....

If naturalized, give particulars.....

.....

Number of dependents.....

Name	Address	Date of Birth
John Mark	Blackburn	Feb. 22nd 1902

.....

.....

.....

Do you maintain a self-contained household?.....Yes.....

Military Service..No..1914-18(yes or no) ..No...Overseas Service (yes or no)

Military Service..No..1939-45(yes or no) ..No...Overseas Service (yes or no)

If you are in receipt of a pension, please indicate pension No...No.....

What is your permanent address....Rocher River, N.W.T.....

If living elsewhere please indicate.....

In case of emergency who should be notified: Name.....Albert Lange.....

Address.....Rocher, Alberta.....Phone Number.....

How many years of Elementary School have you completed?.....8 full.....

How many years of High School have you completed?.....2 full.....

How many years of University have you completed?.....1.....

Other courses if any.....Shell Commercial.....

Classical course & private

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Degree or Diploma you hold High Commercial

Languages you speak well French, English

Languages you write well French, English

Skills (such as typing, draughting, etc.) Typing, Gardening

Number of years "supervisory" experience 9 years

Number of years "administrative" experience 3 years

Experiences and number of years of each

9 years at Island Lake - Day Teacher
Garden Instructor - Family allowance
Plans -

Examinations of Civil Service Commission at which you have been successful:

Classification	Date of Exam	Rank and Eligible List (if you know)

If you have been employed with other Agencies of the Dominion Government, please state Department, starting and closing date of employment and nature of work:

Date since which you have had continuous temporary employment

Date since which you have had continuous permanent employment

Date since which you have been assigned to Mines and Resources July, 1949

Please indicate at bottom of this form any further information you may wish to have placed on file but please do not attach anything to this form.

Eleven years experience with Indian problems. Interested in welfare such as Old Folks Homes & family allowance at Island Lake, Man.

Aug 24th, 1949
Date

J. E. Blackburn
(Signature of employee)

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OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND OATH OF OFFICE AND SECRECY

provided by Section 43, Civil Service Act, Chapter 22, R.S.C. 1927
as amended 1947

Department of Mines and Resources

Indian A.F. Ser. ..... Branch

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Sixth, His Heirs and Successors, according to law. So help me God.

OATH OF OFFICE AND SECRECY

I solemnly and sincerely swear that I will faithfully and honestly fulfil the duties which devolve upon me by reason of my employment in the Civil Service and that I will not, without due authority in that behalf, disclose, or make known any matter or thing which comes to my knowledge by reason of such employment. So help me God.

Full Name (Printed)	Signature
John Edmund Blackburn	John Edmund Blackburn

Subscribed and sworn before me
at Winnipeg, Manitoba
this 25th day of February 1944.

.....
A person duly authorized by the Governor in Council to administer such oaths, or a Justice of the Peace, Notary Public or Commissioner for Oaths.

A BARRISTER-AT-LAW ENTITLED TO PRACTICE IN THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

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Rocher River, E.
N. W. T.
Canada -
J. E. Blackburn

AUG 26 1949

WINNIPEG 10 1125

CANADA 3 CENTS 3

CANADA 3 CENTS 3

CANADA AIR 6 CENTS 7

CANADA 4 CENTS 4

R WINNIPEG, MAN. No. 8939

Mr. Bernard F. Neary,
Supt. of Indian Education,
Ottawa.
Canada

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ARMY MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED (OUTGOING) FILE: 910-1 (E)

File

PLACE DATE

Ottawa August 29 1949

MR J W McKINNON
Superintendent of Education
Box 117 Yellowknife Northwest Territories

RE ROCHER RIVER SCHOOL -stop- BLACKBURNS NOW EN ROUTE BUT CANNOT ADVISE DATE OF ARRIVAL -stop- CAN YOU ADVISE WHEN THEY ASSUME DUTIES -stop-

Bernard F Neary
Superintendent of Education

CONFIRMATION

Phoned to: .....

Phoned by: .....

Time: .....

BFN/EM

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNATURE	DEGREE OF PRIORITY	TIME OF ORIGIN
SIGNED	.....	.....

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JCE38

JCEY 32

PA 4465 191

Department of Mines & Resources Indian Affairs Branch AUG 30 1949 A.M. REGISTERED

RR JCPA

FM JCEY 30/ J W MCKINNON YELLOWKNIFE 25 1716Z

TO JCPA/ COLONIAL B F NEARY SUPT OF EDUCATION INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH
CAPITAL THEATRE BLDG OTTAWA

GRNC

PLEASE ADVISE DATE MR AND MRS BLACKBURN ARRIVING ROCHER RIVER

251721Z

ARMY MESSAGE - ADDRESS QUERIES LOCAL ARMY SIGNAL OFFICE - ARMY MESSAGE

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						D. H.

SEND THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS ON THE BACK HEREOF:

Colonel E. F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education,
Indian Affairs Branch,
Capitol Theatre Building,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

25 August/49.

PLEASE ADVISE DATE MR AND MRS BLACKBURN ARRIVING ROCHER RIVER

J.W. McKinnon

J.W. McKinnon,
Superintendent of Education,
Mackenzie District, N.W.T.

N.D.—G.F. 4—1,500 Pads of 100—11-43 (2834)

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Rocher River
via Resolution,
Sept 5th 1949.

15573

Mr. Bernard A. Neary,
Supt. of Indian Education,
Ottawa.

SEP 12 1949
RECORDS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Dear Mr Neary:

We are at Rocher River at last. We arrived on the 1st and shall start school to-morrow, the 6th.

The children are eager to attend school. Quite a few older boys and adults have asked us to teach them at night. We shall

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2.

discuss that with Mr MacKinnon of Yellowknife who has wired us this morning of his visit shortly.

We met Mr Johnston in Edmonton. He was of great help and we appreciated it very much. Mr Taylor met us at Fort Smith. Mr Fraser, district administrator and Mr Gooderam discussed some points of Rocher River. Mr Gooderam was just out of Rocher River so he advised us to purchase the necessary ustensils & food until

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our mess order was in
I wish to state that
there was no ration
at Rocher. So all we
have coming this week
by the last boat is
what I ordered on top
of the single ration we
expected here.
We are waiting for Mr
McKinnon. We shall
give him another order
on the Hudson's Bay
at Edmonton. I made
the order out of the
local H. Bay's manager
mess list covering one
year's needs.
Quite many items have
not arrived yet as to

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furniture. On Mr Good-
[redacted]n's advice we
bought a few items
which should meet
your approval & hope.
The water system is
not finished yet, so
cannot be used until
next year.
The electric plant has
been repaired and o-
perates with satisfaction.
We will send
attached an account
of our travelling ex-
penses up to Fort
Smith from Edmonton.
Express charges are not
complete since we did
not get everything at

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5

Waterways in due time & shall make a separate account when all received.
The statement covers only train and plane fare from Edmonton to Smith.
I would ask you to forward refund cheque payable to the "Canadian Bank of Commerce, Arnold Branch Winnipeg, Manitoba.
Thanking you for your kind attention and advice,
I remain,
Yours truly,
J.E. Blackburn

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Rocher River,
N. W. T.
Sept. 5th 1949.

Department of Indian Affairs in acct. with J. E. Blackburn for the following:

Train fare from Edmonton to Waterways	$55.90
Plane fare from Waterways to Fort Smith	90.00
Total	$145.90

Please remit by cheque payable to the "Canadian Bank of Commerce, Donald Branch, Winnipeg, Man.

J. E. Blackburn.

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Monthly Deductions

(a) House, Light & fuel. $2 5.20

(b) Furniture $6 00

(c) Ration 35 00

Total $66.20

25.20

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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E6

1. Prepare Voucher
2 Deduct NLA
3 - Lodging } Residence ?
Furniture ?

Welfare Grade 2

Grade 2
Welfare
~~8th year~~
6th
~~$2940~~ → this is Ltr. III Welfare

$2520 promised in letter 15.8.49 A.M.

Higher but for Summer Schools.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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C.A.F.B. 1531 (4 PARTS)!
230M-4-46 (891)
224-21-81931

ARMY MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED (OUTGOING)

FILE: 910-1 (E6)

PLACE Ottawa, DATE September 22, 1949.

Mrs. J.E. Blackburn,
Teacher, Rocher River Indian Day School,
RocherRiver via Resolution, N.W.T.

RECEIPT FOR RAILWAY AND PLANE FARE FROM EDMONTON
TO FORT SMITH NECESSARY BEFORE MAKING REFUND STOP
WRITE COMPANIES FOR STATEMENTS AND FORWARD TO ME

Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education.

MFT/AM
PHONED TO: AS
PHONED BY: AM
TIME: 4pm.

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNATURE	DEGREE OF PRIORITY	TIME OF ORIGIN
SIGNED	.....	.....

COPY 3

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Copy to: Mr. I.F. Kirkby,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

File 910-1 ← PA

910-5 (R)

, September 23, 1949.

Mr. Fred Fraser,
District Administrator,
Lands, Parks and Forests Branch,
Department of Mines & Resources,
Fort Smith, N.W.T.

Rocher River Indian Day School

Dear Mr. Fraser:

I have for answer your letter of September 2 with regard to the food purchased for Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn proceeding to the Rocher River School.

We are paying this account and will make arrangements to deduct the amount from their Northern Living Allowance.

I sincerely appreciate your offer to arrange with them for the provision of fresh meat and other supplies from Fort Smith. Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education.

BFN/AV

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C.A.F.B. 1
250M-4-48 M
H.Q. 22

23-9-49

RE REFUND CHEQUE FOR MR & MRS.
BLACKBURN

"forward refund cheque payable
to the "Canadian Bank of Commerce,
Donald Branch, Winnipeg, Manitoba."

See letter dated 5-9-49 on
file 910-1.

A.M.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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905-1
910-

12082

YELLOWKNIFE
AUGUST 30 1949

COL NEARY

RE TEL AUGUST 29 FOR YOUR INFORMATION MR AND MRS BLACKBURN SPENDING FEW DAYS EDMONTON STOP MAY BE CONTACTED THROUGH W J JOHNSTON D P W STOP ARE ARRIVING FORT SMITH SEPTEMBER 1ST

J W MCKINNON

GM/AS

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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IN

AUG 22 23 29 z 49

JCP423
JCE141 TW
JCEY85

RR JCPA

FM JCEY82/D J MARTIN HAY RIVER NWT 22 2100Z
TO B F NEARY M ES R OTTWA
GRNC

BLACKBURNS HAVE NOT ARRIVED HERE TODATE

2222217

AUG 26 1949

ARMY MESSAGE - ADDRESS QUERIES LOCAL ARMY SIGNAL OFFICE

C.A.F.B. 1442C 1250M-11-48 (1677)
H.Q. 224-21-B-1442

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"B.F." SLIP

"B.F."

FOR

Date 3-10-49

Initials A.M.

R. 3579

appt. Mr. Blackburn re check payment of refund cheque

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3-10-49

Col. Neary

Re Mr. Blackburn
to be appt'd now.

See letters 22-9-49

refund cheque also.

AGM.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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910-1

SHIPPING POINT
WATERWAYS - ALTA.

McInnes Products Corporation
LIMITED

No. T73/49

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT:

Waterways, Alta. Oct.11, 19 49
ALBERTA

SOLD TO Department of Indian Affairs,

OTTAWA, Canada.

DATE SHIPPED	FROM	VIA	CAR	No.

To freight charges as per following bill of lading:

W1150/49 - $ 6.09

(signed copy attached)

EDUCATION DIVISION
NOV 3 1949
FORWARDED TO

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Copy sent to J. W. McKinnon

" on Yellowknife Caretaker's File

910-1
(E)

November 1, 1949.

Mr. I. F. Kirkby,
Superintendent, Indian Agency,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Rocher River Indian Day School -
Caretaker's Duties.

You will have received copies of my various letters to Mr. Blackburn concerning his salary and Northern Living Allowance. I cannot find from my records whether you received a copy of my letter of August 15, concerning caretaking duties. I am therefore sending you an extra copy of this letter.

Therefore it will be in order for you to submit a voucher at the end of each month, covering the payment to Mr. Blackburn of $30.00 in return for janitor duties at the above school.

You will note that when the pupilage at this school warrants it, Mr. Blackburn can be hired as a second teacher. He has no qualifications but has a number of years' experience and should be a capable teacher. I would consider that an army message to me next summer, when sufficient Indian pupils are available, will suffice to add him to our payroll as a teacher but naturally he will be dropped as a caretaker.

I have all his documents here and I would consider, when the actual steady enrolment of children rises above 30 next spring or summer, that this fact can be reported here as indicated above.

I am also sending a copy of this letter to Mr. McKinnon.

Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education.

Encl.

BFN/EM

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P. A. on -----

COPY FOR YELLOWKNIFE
CARETAKER'S FILE

910-1
(E)

November 1, 1949.

Mr. I. F. Kirkby,
Superintendent, Indian Agency,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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Caretaker's Duties.

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Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education.

Encl.

Copy sent to Mr. McKinnon

BFN/KH

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910-1
(E)

November 1, 1949.

Mr. I. F. Kirkby,
Superintendent, Indian Agency,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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I am also sending a copy of this letter to Mr. McKinnon.

Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education.

Encl.

BFN/KM

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910 - 1

File 139-6-1 986

Yellowknife, N.W.T. 42139-1
September 27th, 1949.

EXTRACT FROM THE
LETTER OF I.F.KIRKBY DATED AS ABOVE AND WRITTEN FROM ABOVE.

X X X

During the past month I have been able to visit the three Indian Day Schools in this Agency as well as the Fort Resolution Residential School. As this trip was made just after the opening of the schoolterm I believe it worth while to report on my observations at each point.

On September 14th, proceeded to Rocher River with Agency boat. This school had opened for the first time on September the 6th, and was progressing very favourably. The day I attended this school 30 pupils were in attendance and a few more were expected to come in. For the most part this number or possibly a few more will be the limit. Some of these children will move out with their parents for the winter hunt but I believe well over 25 will be in attendance at all times.

The Superintendent of Indian Education was contacted and permision to construct a limited number of tables and benches to accommodate the extra pupils was obtained. These tables were to be so constructed that they can be used as ping-pong tables in a games room once more desks are obtained.

A large number, if not all the natives at this settlement are in the settlement for the greater part of the summer and now that we have a welfare teacher at this point, I believe we should encourage gardening, etc., if we are to improve the welfare of these natives. Mr. & Mrs. Blackburn are very enthusiastic about doing just this work and as we have a tractor at Resolution, I will have it taken to Rocher River and plow up a section of the school yard as well as an area for communal gardens. It is my understanding that this type of work is part of the Welfare teachers job and in this country the first requirement is to improve the Indians standard of living by better methods of obtaining his food and clothing. A request for rakes and hoes for the spring gardening was noted and is on attached requisition.

As to Mr. Blackburn's status, it is obvious that he expects

. . . . . .

. . . . . .over

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to be second teacher when there are over 30 pupils and wants to hire a man to haul water, carry in wood and do the janitor jobs. I understood that Mr. Blackburn was to look after the school and we were not going to hire a janitor. From my talks with him I gathered that he felt that the teaching of the extra pupils and the night classes he took made it impossible to do the janitor work. As Mrs. Blackburn is the welfare teacher, I thought it was her place to teach the older persons and to contact the Indians in the settlement.

Both these people seem enthusiastic and should, I hope, help to make Rocher River a better place for the Indians. I would at the same time like to know whether we are to hire the services of an extra man as janitor. I cannot see how two teachers on full time pay are needed to teach 30 pupils, but can be corrected.

I have seen enormous progress at all the schools since last term and I believe we can look forward with confidence to the results that will be obtained from the new type of school in the Northwest Territories.

X X X

(Sgd.) I.S.Kirkby,
Supt. of Indian Agencies.

/oc

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Extract from R.A. Gibson's letter dated Sept. 2, 1949.

Through some stupid error the hardware for the Hay River school was shipped to Rocher River and the man building the last mentioned school did not report it until he had finished the job. The hardware is being transferred.

Extract from R.A. Gibson's letter dated Sept. 2, 1949.

The Rocher River school is far enough ahead for the school teacher to start using the building. There is still the outside water and sewer installation to be constructed, also the fencing on the property. There is some carpenter work and some work on the accordion doors still to be done.

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Rocher River, N.W.T.
Nov. 23rd, 1949.

W. Neary,
Supt. of Indian Education,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Neary:

Please find enclosed all the required receipts covering our expenses for transportation from Edmonton. It amounts to the following:

Train fare	$55.90
Baggage express	20.20
C.P. Airline McMurray to Fort Smith.	90.00
Total	$166.10

Since I borrowed above amount from the Canadian Bank of Commerce, may I

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2

Ask you to forward receipt cheque to:

The Manager,
[redacted]
Canadian Bank of Commerce
Lonald & Portage Branch,
Winnipeg, Man.

Due to the long time it took to get a receipt from the Northern Alberta Railway, my note is overdue, hence my request to forward cheque to the bank at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,
J. E. Blackburn

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C. N. Daly

Should Miss Bell be asked to forward the Nov. cheque to St Norbert now or after Mr B answers telegram?

A.M.

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910-1 (E)

December 2, 1949.

MEMORANDUM:

MR. TRACK

Please work out a letter to all teachers in the N.W.T. who should be thinking now of ordering their rations for next winter. This will include the teachers at Ft. McPherson, Rae, Rocher River, Fort Good Hope, and possibly Hay River.

Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education.

BFN/AM

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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FORM 95

Please address all communications to "The Manager"

910-1

14608

Cable Address "Canbank"

The Canadian Bank of Commerce

PORTAGE & DONALD BRANCH

Winnipeg, Man.

25th November, 1949

E 1

RECEIVED
NOV 28 1949
RECORDS
INDIAN
AFFAIRS

Department of Indian Education,

Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Sirs:

We shall be glad if you will comply with our customer's request and forward the relative cheque to our office.

Department of Mines & Resources
Indian Affairs Branch
NOV 28 1949
RECEIVED

Yours truly,

C. A. O'Malley
pro Manager

Enc.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

Form No. I.A. 506A

INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

910-1

TREASURY ONLY

Cheque No. .....

Date .....

Pay to Mr. J.E. Blackburn,

Address Rocher River Indian Day School, Rocher River, N.W.T.,

DATE		SERVICE	AMOUNT	
Dec.	7	Sept. 1 Railway Fare Edmonton to Fort McMurray	$ 55.	90
		" 1 Plane Fare Fort McMurray	90.	00
		" 1 Baggage Express Edmonton to Fort McMurray	20.	20
			$166.	10

Mrs. Annete Blackburn is engaged as teacher at the Rocher River Indian Day School at Rocher River, N.W.T. Mr. Blackburn is engaged as caretaker at the school and they have one child. The Department is obliged to re-imburse their transportation charges from Edmonton to Rocher River.

Please forward the cheque to The Manager, Canadian Bank of Commerce, Donald & Portage Branch, Winnipeg, Man., to be credited to Mr. J.E. Blackburn's account.

EDUCATION DIVISION
DEC 7 1949
FORWARDED TO TREASURY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Voucher is correct, that the material has been supplied, the work performed and that the charges are fair and just, also that the expenditure has been incurred legitimately and that each item of the same is a fair and just charge against the Government of Canada. This expenditure was authorized by Departmental Letter, File No. ..... dated .....

Agent

VOUCHER No. .....

DATE .....

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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910-1 (E/

AIR MAIL

, December 8, 1949.

Mr. I.F. Kirkby,
Superintendent, Indian Agency,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Rocher River Indian Day School

Mr. J.E. Blackburn called me by telephone from Winnipeg when he was down from Rocher River and advised that he had been unable to contact you before coming out on a business matter.

As you are probably aware, he had a small store near Winnipeg and the manager was resigning at Christmas. I believe he has now sold this business.

The main point at issue is the attendance at this school. He says there are thirty-seven children attending, but we have only received one attendance report form, and this shows only nineteen children. We have not received the reports for October and November and would be pleased if you would speed up their delivery here if possible.

Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education.

BFN/AM

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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910-1 (E.7)

December 8, 1949.

MEMORANDUM:

MISS BELL

Colonel Neary has contacted Mr. J.E. Blackburn and explained to him that our teachers are now paid every two weeks and that the cheque for $117.70 covered only the final half of the month of November.

He has been advised that all future cheques will be addressed to Mrs. Annette Blackburn and sent to Rocher River, N.W.T. If you have not released the cheque to Mrs. Blackburn mentioned in your memo of November 30, you may do so now.

Mr. J.E. Blackburn will not be appointed as teacher until we have verified the fact that the attendance at this school is over 30.

A.M.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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Insert file

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ARMY SIGNAL
0930 HRS DEC. 14/49

YELLOWKNIFE DEC. 14/49

18491

B.F. NEARY

MR. J. E. BLACKBURN RETURNED TO DUTIES AT ROCHER RIVER ON DEC. 12/49

I. F. KIRBY

WB/AS
COPIED: V.S.

Records say this file is with Dr. Proctor.
B.P.

RECEIVED DEC 14 1949 RECORDS INDIAN AFFAIRS

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C
O
P
Y

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

Box 117,
Ottawa, Ontario.
December 5, 1949.

R. A. Gibson, Esquire,
Deputy Commissioner,
Northwest Territories Administration,
Department of Mines and Resources,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

I inspected the Rocher River Indian Day School on Tuesday, November 29th and would report as follows:

There were 37 pupils in attendance at the school and I was under the impression that the children were learning considerable under Mrs. Blackburn's supervision. Complete report of this school will follow as soon as time permits.

During my visit to this settlement, the local people requested that I attend a public meeting in the school. At this meeting, Mr. Duncan was elected unanimously, by all present, as official trustee. He said that he would be willing to act as custodian of school property and do everything possible to further education. All of the parents in this district are Roman Catholic, yet they were very disappointed that religious education was given at the school. They told me that they had informed the local priest that they would withdraw their children from the school if he continued to enforce their children to remain during the religious education period. The priest told them that they would be excommunicated from the church, to which they replied that this made little difference to them. He further informed them that he would cut their Family Allowance payments if they did not remain for religious education.

The local people also acquainted me with the fact that the Blackburns had announced that they would like to have the local priest live in the school residence while at this point. The local people greatly resented any interference in the school by the local priest and informed me that they would withdraw their children from the school if a satisfactory solution was not arrived at immediately.

In order to keep this school operating, the parents so desiring demanded that they have the right to submit a written statement to the Principal requesting that their children be exempt from the religious education period from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Blackburn indicated that this plan would work quite well.

I am submitting this statement in order that you will be informed of the developments in this

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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area. I would advise that this matter be left entirely in the hands of the local people at Rocher River as I am confident that this is the only possible means of arriving at a satisfactory settlement as far as the local residents are concerned.

Yours very truly,

J. W. McKinnon,
Superintendent of Education,
Mackenzie District, N.W.T.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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Records
for
Rocher River

OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
CANADA

OTTAWA

December 10, 1949.

2 C

Col. B. F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education,
Indian Affairs Branch,
Capital Theatre Building,
220 Queen St., Ottawa.

For your information, we are forwarding a copy of a letter received from Mr. J. W. McKinnon, Superintendent of Education for the Mackenzie District, Yellowknife, N.W.T., concerning the Rocher River Indian Day School.

R. A. Gibson,
Deputy Commissioner.

Encl.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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Ottawa, 29 December, 1949.

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR,

LANDS and DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BRANCH.

SCHOOL BOARDS - INDIAN SCHOOLS,
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

We have noted with some concern Mr. McKinnon's action in apparently forming School Committees or School Boards in the Northwest Territories. As you are aware, the Indian Act does not provide for the establishment of these School Boards nor has it been felt necessary to establish these in view of the fact that the entire cost of Indian education is borne by the Government.

Our Indian Superintendent has written at some length concerning the Rocher River School and I felt you would be interested in his comments regarding Mr. McKinnon's action:

"At Rocher River we have two factions, one the Hudson's Bay trader and the other a free trader. In between there is a group of no good white trash who are dead beats anywhere. To establish a school board of this type of person or in a community such as this will only give the teacher untold grief. None of the whites are out of the fueding, which it is in no uncertain terms and the Bay Manager is just as much a part of the whole thing as any one else. Even the Police dislike going to Rocher River because all one hears is a long series of fantastic tales about one party when he visits one store and then hears equally as fantastic from the other store when he visits it. To make the teacher responsible to any of these individuals would be to drive him out by the first plane.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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"The above probably does not interest you but it is one of my objections to having a trustee out of the Rocher River whites appointed. If these people were a little more interested in the school and incidentally the Indians than they are about their own fairy tales, which do cause plenty of trouble then I would be in favor of a trustee but not the way things stand. A trustee from any section of the Rocher River whites would be a stool pigeon who would haunt the teacher day and night.

"I feel the school work is progressing very favorably and the Indians seem only too willing to attend. There is no trouble with them and all social activities are very orderly and very well attended by these people. The only ones who do not seem to know their places are some of the whites who as in most places have been the real offenders where it comes to bringing alcohol to the Indians. I think this is answering a long felt need in Rocher River and if the Teacher can be kept out of the petty jealousy that exists then we need not worry about the final outcome being a success."

Director.

DFN/EM

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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CORRESPONDANCE EXCLUSIVE AVEC WESTERN UNION CABLE SERVICE

FORM 6102.B

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS

W. M. ARMSTRONG
GENERAL MANAGER GÉRANT GÉNÉRAL
TORONTO

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED GENRE DE SERVICE	
FULL RATE PLEIN TARIF	
DAY LETTER LETTRE DE JOUR	
NIGHT MESSAGE DÉPÊCHE DE NUIT	
NIGHT LETTER LETTRE DE NUIT	XXX

PLACE X OPPOSITE SERVICE DESIRED
INDIQUEZ PAR UN X LE GENRE DE SERVICE DÉSIRÉ

CHECK	RECEIVERS NO.	TIME FILED	CHARGE TO DEPT. OR ADDRESS
			Mines & Resources, Indian Affairs Branch

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to
Veuillez expédier la dépêche suivante aux conditions mentionnées au verso auxquelles je consens par les présentes

910-1 (E)

Ottawa, December 2, 19[illegible].

Mr. J.E. Blackburn,
St. Norbert, Man.

DO YOU WISH CHEQUES IN FUTURE SENT FOR DEPOSIT BANK ACCOUNT

ST NORBERT OR WINNIPEG STOP LETTER FOLLOWS

Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education.

BFN/AM

IS YOUR MESSAGE COMPLETE? EXTRA WORDS COST ONLY A FEW CENTS.
VOTRE MESSAGE EST-IL CLAIR ET COMPLET? LES MOTS SUPPLÉMENTAIRES COÛTENT À PEINE QUELQUES CENTS.

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910-1

ARMY
MESSAGE

Dec 14 01 06 49

IF THIS MESSAGE IS INCORRECTLY DELIVERED RETURN TO ARMY MESSAGE CTR.

IIIII

PJD 478AZ

EJD 137

JCEY 38

RR JCPA

DE JCEY 35

R 140020Z

FM I F KIRKBY SUPT YELLOWKNIFE NWT

TO B R NEARY ESQ SUPT OF EDUCATION INDIAN AFFAIRS OTTAWA ONTARIO

GRNC

MR J E BLACKBURN RETURNED TO DUTIES AT ROCHER RIVER ON DECEMBER TWELFTH

140051Z

C.A.F.B. 1442C-715M-6-48 (1235) H.Q. 224-21-B-1442

Department of Indian Affairs & Northern Development
A.M.
REGISTERED

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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910-1 (E6)
910-5

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

Ottawa, January 25, 1950.

Teacher ..... Mrs. J.E. Blackburn,

Address ..... Rocher River, N.W.T.,

School ..... Rocher River Indian Day

RATIONS - INDIAN DAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

At some of the settlements in the Northwest Territories the assortment of groceries and provisions available for purchase is rather limited. In many cases, the stocks are meagre and there is little variety in the items offered.

To overcome this situation and as a measure of assistance to the teachers, arrangements have been made with the Hudson's Bay Company to have requisitions for rations filled at Edmonton and shipped directly to the individual teacher.

The Nutrition Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare has prepared a ration list of the items required for one person living for one year in the North. We have secured approximate prices as quoted by the Hudson's Bay Company in Edmonton. Attached is this list, with the prices, of course, being subject to variation.

On the basis of this list the teacher may then prepare an order and forward same to this office. We will then place the order with a wholesale grocery firm in Edmonton and the items will be shipped by water transportation. The cost at wholesale price of the rations purchased in this manner on behalf of the teacher, together with transportation charges on same, will be deducted on a monthly basis from the living allowance paid to northern employees of the Department. The maximum that can be deducted from the Northern Living Allowance is $35. a month (i.e) $350. for Day School Teachers and $420. from Welfare Teachers. In cases where the cost of the rations and transportation charges is in excess of the above possible deductions, the teacher will be obliged to pay the difference.

The requisition showing the requirements must reach Ottawa prior to March 15, 1950, complete with express address and shipping instructions to ensure delivery during the navigation season.

Bernard F. Neary,
Supt. of Indian Education.

Copy to Indian Superintendent Kirkby.

~~Fort Resolution~~ ..... Agency

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Quantity	Food	Details	Price
DAIRY PRODUCTS			
96 lbs.	Milk	Evaporated	14.34
90 "	"	Powdered, whole	47.88
10 "	"	Powdered, skim	
25 "	Cheese	# 1 Baby rolls	12.28
60 "	Butter	Canned	43.80
17 "	Eggs	Dried	32.88
30 doz.	"	Processed	18.00
FRUITS			
72 cans	Canned (20 oz.cans)	12 cans Peaches	3.24
		12 " Pears	4.44
		12 " Apricots	3.60
		12 " Plums	2.16
		12 " Raspberries	3.84
		12 " Strawberries	3.60
72 cans	Part concentrated Juices (20 oz. cans)	24 " Apple Juice	2.83
		24 " Grapefruit Juice	3.45
		12 " Tomato Juice	1.58
		12 " Pineapple Juice	2.10
24 cans	Tomatoes (28 oz. tin)		5.25
40 lbs.	Dried Fruit (variety)	12-15 oz. pkgs. Raisins	2.28
		6-11 oz. pkgs. Apricots	2.10
		6-11 oz. pkgs. Peaches	1.80
		8 # 1 pkgs. Dried Apples	1.76
		6 # 2 pkgs. Dried Prunes	2.28
VEGETABLES			
400 lbs.	Potatoes	Fresh or	32.00
50 "	"	Dehydrated	
120 "	Other	Fresh or	
28 "	Vegetables	Dehydrated 6 tins Turnips	4.80
		6 " Onion flakes	4.80
		6 " Cabbage	3.90
		6 " Parsnips	4.80
		6 " Carrots	5.40
124 "		Canned Assorted	
		24 20 oz. Peas	3.80
		24 20 oz. Corn	4.35
		12 20 oz. Beets	1.00
		12 20 oz. Mixed Vegetables	2.05
		12 20 oz. Green Beans	1.90
		12 20 oz. Waxed Beans	2.28
10 "	Dried Beans		1.05
6 "	Split Peas		.63
72 cans	Soups	Canned (16 oz. cans)	10.65
300 lbs.	Meat	1 case Canned Sausage	9.85
		2 cases Swifts Boiled Dinner	9.90
		2 " Yorks Irish Stew	10.70
		2 " Burns Beef Stew	11.00
		2 " Prem	19.30
		1 " Hereford Corned Beef	10.90
		1 " Hedlund's Meat Balls	8.15
		1 " Burns Chicken Dinner	8.90
		1 " Steak & Onions	13.40

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Quantity	Food	Details	Price
40 lbs.	Fish	Canned, Dried or Fresh	
		24 tins Cohoe Salmon	6.90
		12 " Chicken Haddie	3.10
		20 6 oz. tins Lobster	16.90
		24 4 oz. tins Sardines	2.16
CEREALS			
175 lbs.	Flour	Canada Approved White	11.05
75 "	"	Brown	4.56
5 "	"	Graham	.47
36 "	Rolled Oats		3.15
5 "	Cream of Wheat		.78
4 "	Corn Meal		.40
12 pkgs.	Prepared Whole Grain	Cereals (Shredded Wheat etc.)	1.80
10 lbs.	Macaroni, Spaghetti &	Catelli	1.20
8 "	Rice	Bulk	1.20
4 "	Cornstarch,	Canada	.68
2 "	Wheat Germ		
60 "	Lard or Shortening		15.00
36 "	Sugar,	White, granulated,	3.78
16 "	"	Brown	1.52
60 "	Jams, Honey & Syrups (asst.)	2 tins # 2 Strawberry Jam	.92
		2 " Raspberry Jam	.84
		1 " Apricot Jam	.42
		2 " Marmalade	.66
		1 " Peach Jam	.39
		10 " Honey	3.50
		2 " Plum Jam	.60
		10 " Syrup	2.50
MISCELLANEOUS			
14 lbs.	Salt	Iodized	.77
8 oz.	Pepper	6 tins 1½ oz. black	.84
8 oz.	Mustard		.64
12 tins	Mixed Spices	2 tins 1½ oz. Nutmeg	.15
		2 " " Cinnamon	.15
		2 " " Allspice	.15
		2 " " Ginger	.15
		2 " " Cloves	.15
		2 " " Poultry Spice	.15
			.60
3 tins	Tomato Catsup	20's	1.61
½ gal.	Vinegar	White	4.80
2 gals.	Pickles	Mixed, sweet	.17
2 bottles	Flavoring	1 Vanilla	.17
		1 Pure Lemon	.84
5 lbs.	Baking Powder		.20
2 "	Baking Soda		1.20
8 oz.	Gelatin		1.75
5 lbs.	Peanut Butter		1.98
6 "	Cocoa		1.85
21 "	Chocolate, cooking		12.09
13 "	Tea		12.60
20 "	Coffee		1.40
5 "	Biscuits	Soda	3.60
12 "	"	Fancy	1.30
5 "	"	Graham	1.35
6 "	Mincemeat		.72
8 pkgs.	Jello Powders,	3¼ oz.	1.04
2 lbs.	Cocoanut		.90
5 lbs.	Shelled Nuts,	2 lb. Almonds	2.25
		3 " Walnuts	1.80
4 doz.	Yeast cakes	Fleshman's Fast Rising	.36
3 lbs.	Icing Sugar		

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Rocher River, N.W.T.,

January 15, 1950

6174

Mr. Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Education,
Department of Indian Education,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Neary :

When we arrived in Rocher River last September, there was no food or ration which we expected to be in already. We placed an order with the Hudson's Bay Co for the amount of $640.00.

May I ask you to pay that amount to the Hudson's Bay Co. at Edmonton and take out a monthly payment out of my salary and allowance starting from February until August inclusively.

The situation should be different next year since we shall be right in Rocher River and in a position to order whatever we really need with what will be left from this year's mess.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Manager of the Hudson's Bay Co. in Edmonton.

Hoping that my request meets your approval,

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Mrs Annette Blackburn.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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Rocher River, N.W.T.,

January 15, 1950

6173

Mr. Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Indian Education,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

Department of Mines & Resources
Indian Affairs Branch
JAN 27 1950
REGISTERED

RECEIVED
JAN 27 1950
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Dear Mr. Neary :

This is to inform you that Mr. Blackburn has not received any salary yet for his teaching or any other work he has been doing since the first of September.

He has been teaching the Junior classroom with beginners from 6 to 15 years of age. Adult Education takes all his nights. You must have received a report on that subject from Mr. McKinnon, superintendent of Education at Yellowknife, who suggested on his visit in the last days of November that Mr. Blackburn should receive a monthly salary of around $160.00 for the work he has been doing. The plant and the janitor work take most of his free hours. The school, unfinished as it is, requires continuous heating day and night and I do not exagerate. He has to be up every hour and a half to keep the fires going to keep the rooms not warm but only cool. We have to go in the furnace room to warm up during school hours.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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Mr. Kirkby, who came yesterday, was surprised to hear that Mr. Blackburn had received nothing yet.

I sincerely hope that Mr. Blackburn's position will be cleared up in the near future.

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Mrs Annette Blackburn

Mrs. Annette Blackburn,
Rocher River, N.W.T.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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139-2-34

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

OFFICE OF
INDIAN AGENT

6629

Yellowknife, N.W.T.
January 26th. 1950

B.F. Neary, Esq.,
Supt. of Education,
Indian Affairs Branch,
Dept. of Mines & Resources,
OTTAWA, Ont.

Dear Sir:

School maintenance and the maintenance of the light plant and engine at Rocher River school have been one continual source of worry from the time this school was taken over. I am enclosing a copy of each wire received from Mr. Blackburn at Rocher River and also the reply or the action taken. From these wires it will be seen that Blackburn knows nothing whatsoever about equipment and he has made himself so highly disliked by his attitude and actions that no one will give him any assistance when it comes to looking after the plant.

A complete instruction book; both for the engine and the battery bank; is left on the tool bench beside the engine and as the Lister is simplest engine to handle anyone with the ambition to read the instructions should be able to handle the plant. The changing of a fuse seemed to me to be lack of the very simplest of common sence rules.

On my last trip into Rocher River I received a wire that the plant had played out and that it was impossible to start it. I took in the Dept. of Transport mechanic from Resolution and Blackburn was sure that the lad who ran the plant last fall had purposly damaged it. On examination it was found that the fuel tank had run dry and the engine stopped so that when the tank was again filled an air lock was caused and the plant would not start. Blackburn had been running the engine with the radiator half full and when the plant would not start had started to pull things off and had drained oil over everything. It was after seing this mess that I requested the fire extinguishers and ordered the plant cleaned up. I consider this man will ruin the plant in very short order and he has only made the settlement of Rocher River into a more disorginized place than it ever was before.

I believe that Mrs Blackburn may be a good teacher but Mr. Blackburn thinks he is boss and is ruining all the good she is doing. The first requirement at Rocher River is to run a good school and make it a credit before moving out to try and run the Indians and whites, when he cannot run the establishment he is in without wrecking it when ever our back is turned.

This school has a light plant and the furnace is dependant on power for circulation. If we do not have a teacher or teacher's husband who can run these two simple units we will not be able to install our water system and other equipment for fear of it freezing up for lack of care or knowledge of the simplest equipment. I have done all I can to help keep these schools on the go and to make life pleasant for the teacher but when a man is receiving pay to do a job it should either be done right or the man must be replaced.

The number of pupils in attendance at this school is from 30 to 35 and it is very doubtfull if it will be higher

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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in the near future, in fact it is much more likely to decline with the moving of families of T.B. patients to Residential school.

I am very anxious to see these school establishments operate smoothly and that we should get the most out of them for the money spent. If the physical plant itself cannot be looked after by the man we now have the only solution is to get rid of him and put in someone who will show a little inititive and common sense which must be done if we are not going to ruin the whole equipment now installed.

The following wires have been exchanged and results are as indicated.

Wire: Electric plant needs to be serviced by experienced repair man stop One battery connection burned with a flash when starting motor afraid ## batteries will discharge not using motor until checked, signed Blackburn

Answer: Please explain fully where flash occurred as I wish to take in repairs first trip, signed Kirkby.

Wire: Flash occured at battery post and <u>almost</u> burned one post off battery stop Post still holds but badly damaged would suggest one new battery, signed Blackburn.

Wire: Motor running good but no registration of charge on panel stop waiting George to return this week and check and will wire results. signed Blackburn.

Answer: Did you check reverse current relay to see if it is making contact when engine running at full speed stop Check points and hold in with insulated screw driver in not making contact stop also check fuses. signed Kirkby.

Wire: George Mccallum checked plant yesterday and found defective fuse on switchboard stop plant running satisfactoraly, signed Blackburn.

Wire: Oil pressure gauge shows no pressure on plant engine stop do you wish Mccallum to check. Signed Blackburn

Answer: Have service man clean oil lines, filters and screens also check pump to restore pressure, signed Kirkby.

Wire; Plant stopped operating at two forty pm today suggest expert checkup stop done everything I know , Blackburn.

Flew into Rocher River with one mechanic and found plant in filthy condition, plant had been let run dry of fuel oil and air lock had formed. Instruction book on table and if this had been read by Blackburn he could have fixed it.

Wire : No registration of voltage on panel stop motor runs good but no oil pressure indicated have closed school as too cold for operation, signed Blackburn.

Answer: Local engineer advises engine must not be run without oil pressure. signed E.C. Devlin, Clerk.

On my return I wired you at Ottawa for permission to take in engineer and electrician to check equipment. This series of wires are the work of a man who has no knowledge of equipment at all and as we are not able to have an electrician make a trip into Rocher River every time a fuse blows or a mechanic every time the man forgets to put oil or fuel into the plant I believe that it is time to remove him from the job otherwise we will ruin the whole plant and still in the end have to get a new man in to operate the equipment.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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I do not feel that Mr. Blackburn has made any attempt to make the school equipment run and even though this school is of very poor construction I am sure that the equipment can be run in a much better way. It is not possible to hire the local Indians to do this work as none of them have any ideas regarding mechanical equipment, although it would be impossible to do less than is done now. This school is situated in a very small settlement and it would not be possible to have both a teacher and a janitor, but if the teacher was to have some knowledge of mechanical equipment and give him authority to hire local help to wash floors, polish and wax, carry wood, bring in ice, clean up the engine room, keep fuel in the engine and so forth then we should not have the present grief we do have. All the extra jobs should be done on an hourly wage basis and the teacher given an extra $30.00 per month to check the light plant himself. It is impossible to hire anyone with mechanical knowledge in Rocher River and no man will look after the light plant for $30.00 if this is all he has to do.

I believe that the janitor work and the light plant and wood and ice hauls should be a full time job and whether the principal has to hire it done or whether we put in a married woman and her husband do the work we are going to be forced to pay out at least $150.00 per month for the work done. Mr. Blackburn has only received the $30.00 per month that I have vouchered through to him and he felt that he was to receive a stated amount whether teaching or not and that when he was teaching he would not attend to the plant but would turn over the $30.00 to someone else to do the work. I have a copy of your letter of August 15th, file 910-1 (E) and I must admit that it is slightly misleading if not carefully examined and as Mr. Blackburn is too excitable to concentrate he took your letter to mean that he would receive a salary whether teaching or not and when not teaching an extra $30.00 to look after the plant, also that when he did start to teach he would pass the $30.00 on to someone else. This is his complaint about salary but everything has gone haywire from the day he arrived and he needs daily supervision regarding the equipment. I cannot give this as it costs $150.00 for every plane ride into the place therefore I find that I have to agree with Mr. McKinnon that we need a local school board or sub-trustee or a home and school association that will make the well being of the school serious and check up on teacher and janitors who donot perform their required duties.

In the Northwest Territories we have to rely upon each man to run his or her own establishment without daily supervision and unless we receive this type of person everything will go down hill. A service man cannot be on call every hour of the day to out-of-the-way places, and as they are large establishments with much technical equipment, then we must have teachers who know the rudiments of electricity and mechanics or we will never keep our schools open. At many settlements schools are hooked up to the Army Signals or Dept. of Transport and at such a place maintenance amounts to sweeping and oiling one motor. At my two large schools we have self contained units that rely on their own plants and equipment and we must have teachers or teachers husbands who can qualify enough to do the very simplest of mechanical chores such as changing fuses, keeping plant and motors oiled and fuel in the tank.

I know these schools are set in isolated settlements and that teachers are hard to get, but from the very location of these schools it is a must that we get couples who can be relied upon to run the place on their own in order that we may receive the full benifit of the moneys spent.

Yours very truly

I.F. Kirkby,
Supt. of Indian Agencies.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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910-1

Rocher River, N.W.T.,

January 23 , 1950 (6630

RECEIVED
JAN 30 1950
RECORDS
INDIAN
AFFAIRS

Mr. Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Indian Education,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Mr. Neary :

Please find enclosed a letter I received today from the Managar of the Bank of Commerce where we had to borrow, on my note, the necessary fund to cover our expenses last September to reach Rocher River from Edmonton.

Our expense account amounted to about $166.00 and the necessary receipts have been forwarded to you early in December with the request that the refund cheque be mailed to that bank who shall collect the balance of the loan from our savings account. Mr. Barlow has already been notified.

May I ask you to verify if the refund cheque for expenses has been sent to the bank and notify the Manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Portage and Donald Branch, Winnipeg.

Remain,

Yours truly,

cheque for $166.10 forwarded by treasury on Jan 14, 1950, although Treasury cannot say whether this cheque went to the Bank or Rocher River cheque no is 46686

WT 1/2/50

JAN 30 1950
RECORDS
INDIAN
AFFAIRS

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Please address all communications to "The Manager"

Cable Address "Canbank"

The Canadian Bank of Commerce

PORTAGE & DONALD BRANCH

Winnipeg, Man.

13th January, 1950

Mr. J. E. Blackburn,
Rocher River,
N. W. T.

Dear Mr. Blackburn:

We acknowledge receipt of your letter of 29th December enclosing cheque for $117.70 which we have utilized to retire your note for the same amount and enclose herewith the cancelled note.

We have not yet received your expense cheque which we believe is now long overdue and our loan for $225.00 made in anticipation of this cheque still remains outstanding on our books. It would be appreciated if you could do anything to expedite finalization of this matter.

Yours truly,

E. F. Barlow,
Assistant Manager

EFB:mb
Encl.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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Office of Supt. of Indian Education:—

The cheque for $90.00 in favour of J. E. Blackburn which accompanied this letter is being held by Treasury awaiting your advice as to its disposition.

May we have your instructions regarding it as soon as convenient?

E. J. Morgan

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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Cheque no 41746 - $90.00 dated Jan 11/50

THE ENCLOSED OFFICIAL CHEQUE NO. B22 - IS IN PAYMENT OF YOUR CLAIM AS DETAILED HEREUNDER

MINES & RESOURCES
- MINES FORESTS & SCIENTIFIC SERVICES BR.
- LANDS & DOMINION SERVICES BR.
- SPECIAL PROJECTS BR.
- INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

NAT. RESEARCH COUNCIL

R.C.M.P.

INVOICE NO.	DATE OF INVOICE	PARTICULARS
STMT	DEC 1	SALARY JANITOR ALLCE LIGHT PLANT MAINTANCE NOV OCT

Cheque being held by Treasury pending advice

J E BLACKBURN

ROCHER RIVER N W T

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY

CENTRAL PAY OFFICE - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DIVISION

414 SUSSEX STREET — OTTAWA

C.T. 278A
NO ACKNOWLEDGMENT IS NECESSARY
△ IE

PLEASE QUOTE CHEQUE NUMBER WHEN REFERRING TO THIS REMITTANCE

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Rocher River, N.W.T.,
January 23, 1950

Mr. Bernard F. Neary,
Superintendent of Indian Education,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Mr. Neary :

You will find enclosed a copy of a letter which I have just sent to Mr. Kirkby, also a cheque of $90.00 covering the plant maintenance and janitor allowance for October and November.

May I ask you to permit me a few complaints or remarks as to what that cheque implies. Firstly we feel that we are being abused by having to pay the janitor expenses for the three months ending October 31 because Mr. Kirkby told us that it should come out of the $40.00 monthly allowance for that purpose. We spent less than that doing a lot of the work ourselves. Our intentions on that subject are exposed in my letter to Mr. Kirkby. In that same letter you will note the statement made on the plant maintenance. I wish to state here that Mr. Johnstone, of Edmonton, made a special note of the plant stating it had not given satisfaction even being put to use for its purpose. It is in need of repair or expert checkup because nobody seems to know the trouble

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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Mr. Kirkby was surprised to hear my statement, two weeks ago, that I had to run the plant from 8 to 15 hours every day. Mr. Kirkby thought that a two day operation every week was sufficient.

Teaching : We have over 35 children registered and the ages of the children of the lower grades, mainly grades 1 & 11, vary from 7 to 15. Some of them will make two grades this first year. 6 Beginners are doing a very strong Grade 1 already.

Night School : Mr. McKinnon , Superintendent of Education, has witnessed, through a meeting of the indians, of the work accomplished in that sphere. The results obtained are similar to the ones in the day school.

The Indians have been organized, by a committee of Indians, and they manage the expensed of the Xmas tree and dances held every other week. Plans have been made for next year Xmas tree. Games have been bought and the school is the real Community centre as it was expected. All that has not prevented them to go trapping or hunting as proved by a weekly checkup.

I figure that the salary mentioned by Mr. McKinnon is fair with all the work and responsibility it calls for. It is with reluctance that I return the enclosed cheque hoping that everything will be duly adjusted.

Yours truly,

J E Blackburn

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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Rocher River, N.W.T.,

January 23, 1950

Mr. I. F. Kirkby,

Superintendent of Indian Agencies,

Yellowknife, N.W.T..

Dear Mr. Kirkby :

I wish to notify you that I have just received a cheque of $90.00 covering the allowance for the light plant maintenance and janitor work cor November and October. Nothing is mentioned for September and December, the date of Invoice of cheque being as at December 1 .

It was understood. before we left for Rocher River, that the allowance of $30.00 was for the plant maintenance. Nothing was mentioned of any janitor work. I am not satisfied with the treatment I am receiving for all the work done. I am returning the $90.00 cheque to Mr. Neary with a letter stating the situation of Rocher River. I am enclosing a copy of said letter. In the meantime, I wish to let you know that I cannot work from 5 in the morning till 11 at night, and get up every 90 minutes to try to keep the building warm or as close to it as possible.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6474, file 910-1, part 1)

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This continuous upkeep of the fires is absolutely necessary to keep the school opened all day. Afternoon sessions would be the only alternative.

Nothing has been received for the teaching done although close to 40 children are registered.

Adult education seems to be of no value although results obtained vouch for the work done.

Should there be no adjustment before the first of February, I regret to ask you to appoint someone to look after the plant and the janitor work. Speaking of janitor work, you told us that the sum of $40.00 per month was allowed and we went on that basis. We are not to be held responsible for the amount spent for that purpose until the end of October and shall not pay same. The sum of $30.00 was paid to Mr. G. McCullum for the upkeep of the plant for the time I was away. I wonder who should refund that amount.

I sincerely hope that the matters mentioned in this letter will receive your attention and I would greatly appreciate your decision at your earliest convenience.

I remain,

Yours truly,

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