



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION – FACT CHECK

Truth and Reconciliation is a priority for Christ the King Elementary School Council. To help the school community on this journey, Council will start by focusing on the “Truth” component in order to educate ourselves. Each CKES Chronicle for the remainder of the year will include a fact about the history of residential schools and information generally about First Nations in the Yukon.

If you have questions or suggestions please contact ckescouncil@gmail.com.

Residential School Records

While there were no Catholic residential schools in the Yukon, a considerable number of Yukon students attended Lower Post Residential School in BC, near Watson Lake, which was run by the Catholic Church.

The Catholic church created and looked after its own records related to the residential schools that they were involved with. The federal government required that they fill out forms such as admission forms, health of student on admittance, and quarterly attendance forms and these were sent in to Ottawa and the Church would have also retained its own copy. These federal records are in the holdings of the Library and Archives Canada, but they are not complete, as in many years are missing for some schools.

[School Files Series - 1879-1953 \(RG10\) - Library and Archives Canada \(bac-lac.gc.ca\)](http://bac-lac.gc.ca) is the link to the Lower Post school admissions and discharges file on microfilm. There are only records for 1950 to 1953 although the school was in existence from 1951 until 1975. In the spot that says “Page”, input the number **1441** and this will take you to the Admissions and Discharges files and you can go through them to see the types of documents that were sent to and received from Ottawa.

The Catholic Church in Yukon has always sent their records outside of Yukon to the Archdiocese of Vancouver although some of the priests have sent their personal photo collections to the Oblate archives in Quebec. Request for records can be made to the Diocese of Whitehorse. Approval of such request is at the sole discretion of the Bishop of the Diocese and the Chancellor and is contingent on personnel and resources availability.

As a comparator, the Anglican Church of Canada, Diocese of Yukon decided not to send their records down to the Anglican Church Archives in Vancouver and instead, to deposit them at the Yukon Archives.