

Federal Day School (became Sir Joseph Bernier Federal Day School)

School year 1951/ 1952 to 1969/ 1970

(Ste-Marie Residence – later named Turquetil Hall)

School Year 1955/ 1956 to 1969/ 1970

SCHOOL (originally called a Federal Day School; renamed the Sir Joseph Bernier Federal Day School; under the N.W.T. government renamed Victor Sammurtok School now the building is used as a hotel - Inns North – owned by the Arctic Federation of Co-ops)

- A 2 classroom Federal Day School (36' x 75') was constructed in 1950-51 by the Vicariate (today called RC Diocese of Churchill of Hudson Bay)
- **October 15, 1951** the school officially opened; first teacher Mr. Rolland Larivière
- The Sir Joseph Bernier school operated as a Federal day school c.1951 to 1969/70 and was administered from Ottawa; all reports related to the school went to Ottawa; any records pertaining to the school should be located in Library and Archives Canada – the repository for federal government departments; the list of students provided to you came from the Diocese looking at the registers housed at the new Victor Sammurtok school in the 1990s (hopefully they are still there...)
- Teachers were hired by the Federal Government (Dept of Northern Affairs and National Resources – they included members of the Grey Nuns order [1955-1970 – 15 members] and the general public [1955-70 - 14])
- 1955 -The school had a new wing constructed in the summer of 1955 to house the new students that would be flown in from other communities and be accommodated at the hostel; now the school was a 4-classroom facility plus a sewing room and boy's workshop for the students
- Students were flown in mid-August and returned home mid-May
- Language of instruction in the school – English

HOSTEL TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES

(Ste Marie Residence 1955 – renamed Turquetil Hall 1964)

- Supplies to build the hostel arrived in the summer of 1953 on the *Regina Polaris* RC mission vessel and in 1954 on the *Rupertsland* vessel
- This hostel (88' x 110') was constructed starting the summer of 1954; On July 15th, 1954 Brother Gilles-Marie Paradis and carpenters Mr. E Morvan and Mr. L Tardif arrived on the Arctic Wings airplane to begin work; assisted by the Inuit
- **August 15, 1955:** the Hostel was ready to function – Sr G Rocan and Sr T Plante were the founding personnel; the residence was called the Ste-Marie Residence
- August 18, 1955: the first students from outside communities arrived – 6 students from Eskimo Point; in the first school year of 1955-1956 there were 80 residents in the hostel; the official opening did not happen until August 16, 1956
- In 1958 the Federal Government purchased the hostel from the RCEC (church)
- The hostel operated 1955-1969 [originally called St Mary's (Ste-Marie) then renamed Turquetil Hall] (built by Vicariate of Hudson Bay 1954-1955; subsequently sold to federal government in 1958); operated by Vicariate with personnel coming from the Grey Nuns, Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Chesterfield Inlet community; hostel closed May 1969 and utilized by co-op and post office until its demolition (1986) and hamlet complex built on the site
- Language spoken in Turquetil Hall – Inuktitut and English
- Young people from 13 communities (including those residing at home at Chesterfield Inlet) attended the school; 5 of these communities had less than 10 students sent to Chesterfield Inlet
- 12 communities - less than half of the 25 communities existing now in Nunavut sent students and only one community from Baffin Island (Pond Inlet) sent students (5);
- Three quarters of the students attending the school were from 4 communities - Chesterfield Inlet, Igloodik, Repulse Bay, Pelly Bay