

Muscow, Sask.,

May 20th, 1936.

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Sir:

I am asking the Indian Agent to send this letter on to you as the matter is of great importance to me, and while I know that Mr. Booth, the Agent, is in sympathy with me and recognises the justice of what I ask, I think the matter will require to be dealt with by a higher authority.

I am a member of Pasqua Indian Reserve, No. 79 and I was at the Industrial School at Lebret for 14 years, which were 14 years of my life wasted, although I was there during the time of Father Hougenard for whom I had the highest personal regard, but then the school was not as badly run as it is now. I learned practically nothing, but I am glad to say that after I left school I had the opportunity of studying and by reading and with the assistance of others I have attained some little education and desire for improvement. I am happily married to a half-breed woman of English descent who is a good housekeeper and a good mother to our children. I am a Pagan in religion and nothing I have been able to read and study and nothing I have heard from any denomination has caused me to change. Certainly nothing urged by Roman Catholic Priests and Nuns, taking into consideration their own conduct at the same time, would cause me to adopt that religion, and I say this with due regard for the late Father Hougenard and many other worthy priests.

In spite of my being a Pagan, I have placed all my children in the Industrial School at Lebret, but I have now withdrawn my daughter Edith, aged 14, from the school, and for reasons I will give, I do not propose to let her go back, and I wish your permission to keep her away, and I will make arrangements to send her to public school or some other arrangements to educate her. The Priests however will not agree to this as they want the money the Department pays them for pupils, and will have me prosecuted by law unless you intervene on my behalf, and as one of your wards, I crave your protection.

*No medical info sent*

My youngest daughter, aged 11, was at the Industrial School at Lebret and we heard she was ill. We went there on April 21st and found her very ill suffering from pneumonia, but being well looked after by Dr. Simes and an I.D. nurse. Our daughter however seemed worried as well as ill and asked us to keep the Nuns and Priests out of her room as "They were telling her that she would be sacrificed unless her father accepted Christianity". She said that as soon as Dr. Simes and the nurse were away, a nun, Sister Lacroix, and a Priest, who is a stranger and whose name I could not get, would go in and tell her she was going to die for her father's sins, that she must get her father to join the catholic faith before she died, and many other things. The child was so earnest about this that my wife stayed with her as much as possible, but the moment she might be away for meals or a little sleep, this Nun would get in and worry the child, and on my wife's return, she would find her in tears, greatly upset, and she would beg her mother to keep that Nun away. I told Father Leonard about this and he

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6330, file 660-10, part 2)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
CANADA

promised to tell the Nun to keep away, but he did not and she kept up her terrible work in spite of all our efforts.

My wife was told that she has passed the crisis on Friday night and that she had good prospects of recovery. However, on the Monday following, her temperature had again increased and she seemed weak and Dr. Simes said he could not understand why, but the reason was that this Nun had again got to the child and had worked upon her, worrying and frightening her and telling her that she was dying for her father's sin in not becoming a catholic, and saying, "It is his fault you must die, because your father is a Pagan." The child cried to her mother not to leave her and not to let the Nun in again, as the Nun told her she had to die. Evelyn said to her mother "The Nun will be happy when I am dead, but my little sister will cry."

I am positive that if it had not been for this Nun, my child would be alive today. When she died, they told me, "You should be glad your daughter is in Heaven praying for you to be saved from your sins."

After stating these facts, I would be grateful if the Department grant the discharge of my two children from the Qu'Appelle Industrial School.

I would also like to state my appreciation of the services rendered by Dr. Simes and the Department nurse to my daughter.

Your humble ward,

*Andrew Dordow*

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6330, file 660-10, part 2)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
CANADA



OFFICE OF  
INDIAN AGENTS



Muscow, Sask,

July 11th, 1936.

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter #114-0-10, dated the 9th June, 1936, I beg to submit the following report:

I visited the school on June 13th and interviewed the Principal, the Mother Superior and Sisters Laeroix and Dalgeecie.

The Principal stated that Andrew Gordon's statements are false and that the girl received the best attention possible.

Sister Laeroix only visited the girl once as Sister Dalgeecie, who is a trained nurse is in charge of the infirmary, and was on duty all day and Nurse Graham of the Indian Department was night nurse.

Sister Dalgeecie stated that the girl was not bothered in any way at all.

As Andrew Gordon who is a very outstanding Indian on this Agency, would not be able to send his children back there to finish their education, as in his own mind he is convinced that statements are true, and also as he is capable of finishing educating his children outside the reserve, I would recommend that they be discharged. If not I am afraid Andrew will be a source of trouble until his children are of age,

Your obedient servant,

*Frank Booth*

Frank Booth,  
Indian Agent.

*Noted  
10/11/36  
G. Booth*

The Secretary,  
Department Indian Affairs,  
OTTAWA.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6330, file 660-10, part 2)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
CANADA

Ottawa, July 16, 1936.

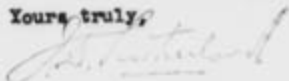
Dear Sir:

The Department is in receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, with reference to the letter received from Andrew Gordon of the Pasqua Band.


I would appreciate if you would return Gordon's letter to the Department as soon as possible.

In view of your report and the report of the Medical Superintendent, Dr. A. B. Simes, it is considered that Gordon's daughter received every possible care and attention previous to her death. There does not appear any reason why Gordon should feel that his children are neglected at the Qu'Appelle Residential School. Under these circumstances, the Department is not prepared to approve their discharge at the present time.

Yours truly,



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



Frank Booth, Esq.,  
Indian Agent,  
Muscow, Sask.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6330, file 660-10, part 2)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
CANADA