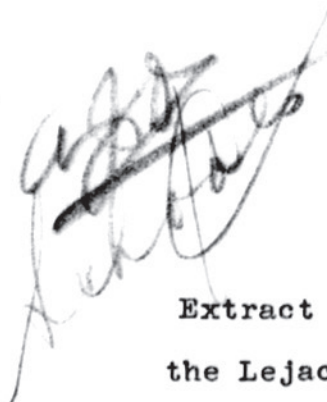


163-1-1



Extract from Principal's Report regarding
the Lejac School. Original on Annual
Report of Principals of Indian Residential
Schools - 1944.

There is a movement of some of the neighbouring reserves to have day schools on their reserves, rather than send their children to this residential school. The leaders of this movement are individuals who are hostile to the school. While I have a certain amount of sympathy for the idea of day schools, I do not think it suitable for the Indians of Northern B.C. as yet. Our people are still nomadic to a great extent and spend a great part of their time away from their reserves. There is a great lack of discipline in our Indian families and the parents will not oblige their children to do anything they do not want to do. If a child does not want to attend school, the parents will not take any action to make them do so. In the Stuart Lake Agency alone I venture to say that two thirds of the children are not being educated. Many of the reserves there are small and remote, and difficult to access. But even in nearby reserves there are many children who never attend school. The capacity of this school is limited, and we have children here from four of the largest agencies in the Dominion, namely Stuart Lake, Babine, Stikine and Skeena, for which this is the only Residential School available. To remedy this situation I would suggest that either this school be enlarged or other schools built. Also I think that the provisions of the Indian Act obliging the attendance of the Indian children at some school be more rigourously enforced than they are at present. Many of our children are ten years of age or more when they are admitted and a large proportion of these only attend for two or three years, some even less. Consequently, they do not receive enough education and training to be of any real use to them.

Source: DIA School Files c-8767 p 571