



CANADA

MINISTER OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

OTTAWA, December 11, 1962.

Mrs. Ruth Gorman,  
2713 - 10th Street S.W.,  
Calgary, Alberta.

Dear Mrs. Gorman:-

I have your letter of December 2nd, concerning school problems of the Morley Indians.

I have asked the officials of the Indian Affairs Branch to look into the matter and you may be sure that I will write to you again when I receive a report from them.

Yours sincerely,



R. A. Bell



CANADA

MINISTER OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

Ottawa 4, December 19th, 1962.

Mrs. Ruth Gorman,  
2713 - 10th Street S.W.,  
Calgary, Alberta.

Dear Mrs. Gorman:

Your letter of December 2nd has been carefully considered along with the report which was submitted by Mr. Davey on his return to Ottawa following his discussions with you and the Band Council.

First, may I thank you for your very kindly remarks on the authorization for Grade IX children to continue in attendance at the Morley Residential School and the assistance for improved clothing for the students who were attending Calgary schools.

There is apparently a large measure of agreement between us on the solution of the problems which still exist on the Morley Reserve. With respect to the operation of day schools, the need for higher education and the importance of our Indian people participating in the administration of programmes which are of direct concern to them, we are on common ground.

I agree with you that a committee comprised of Departmental officials and the Chiefs of the three Bands should be established to review applications for admission to residential school, which would have the responsibility of making recommendations. In this connection, I believe it is essential that the committee be given a clear statement of the policy governing such admissions and this will be done.

I am also prepared to accept the request of the Band Council that the residence continue to operate for the next five years and that a review be made in 1966 of the operation of the school so that adequate notification may be given of the intentions of the Department with respect to the continuance of the residence beyond the five year period.

You have indicated, as did Mr. Davey, that the Band is anxious that the Principal, Mr. R.F. Campbell, continue in his present position and wished

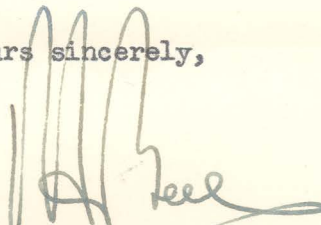
assurance that this would be the case. You will appreciate, I am sure, that there are limitations on what I can do in this regard since Mr. Campbell has responsibilities to the United Church as well as to this Department. Furthermore, as an employee of the Department, he must be treated in the same manner as other employees of the Federal Government but I am pleased to give assurance that it is the intention of the Department to continue his employment and that no action will be taken solely on the basis of difficulties which have been encountered in the past.

This, I believe, leaves only one point raised in your letter to which I have not given an answer. It relates to the use of the residence to accommodate all junior and senior high school pupils, whose parents wish their children to have the privilege of using its facilities. The hostel accommodation is limited and I am advised that if we are to maintain proper standards and to avoid overcrowding, the number of resident pupils should not exceed 59. This is based upon a minimum standard of 50 sq.ft. per pupil of dormitory space. There is, however, accommodation for the Grade IX students and the decision has already been made to accommodate them until the end of the current school year when the arrangement will be reviewed.

May I thank you for your interest in the welfare of our Indian people and your generous comments about Mr. Davey's participation in the conference at Calgary.

With all best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely,



R.A. Bell,  
Minister.



CANADA

MINISTER OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

Ottawa 4, September 26th, 1962.

Mrs. Ruth Gorman, B.A., LL.B.,  
Barrister and Solicitor,  
2713 - 10th Street, S.W.,  
Calgary, Alberta.

Dear Mrs. Gorman:

Thank you for your letter of September 13th in which you outline for me problems relating to the education of Indian children on the Morley Reserve.

I am informed that instruction in Grade IX is now being offered at the Morley School which meets the immediate request of the Indians. As the resolution points out, this is a less expensive way of providing a high school education than transporting the children into Cochrane or providing for their education and maintenance in Calgary but I am not at all sure that this will secure better results. This is no reflection on the way in which the Morley School is operated but as you quite properly pointed out in your letter the members of this particular Band are a backward group in comparison with many of the Indian Bands in Southern Alberta and I do believe that the association of the children with other pupils in a non-Indian school would be most helpful to them and to the Indian community. Our experience in other areas has indicated that we tend to under-estimate the ability of our Indian people to adapt themselves to new conditions and if they, particularly the young people, are given the opportunity, they soon adjust themselves to new surroundings and conditions.

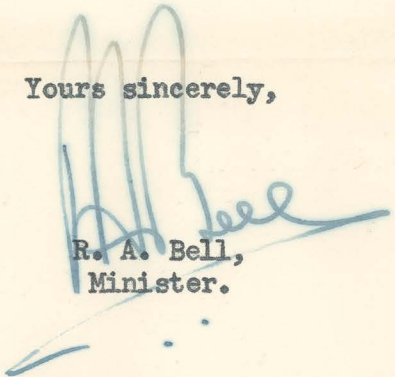
Our field officials have been asked to review most carefully applications for assistance to ensure that the maximum possible benefits can be derived from the funds at our disposal. It was not intended that these instructions should impose serious hardship and I shall have the arrangements for the children who are attending schools in Calgary and Cochrane re-examined to ensure that, in so far as it is within our power, the Indian pupils will have an opportunity to compete on equal footing.

I note that the resolution which you appended to your letter requests the establishment of a high school at Morley at a later date. I am not at all convinced that this is in the best interests of the Indian people, having in mind the limited enrolment that there would be in the senior high school grades. As you know the general trend throughout the country is to establish units where broad programmes of instruction can be offered in a variety of subjects to meet the varied needs of the individual student. If this is desirable for the non-Indian population, I would expect that it would be even more necessary for the Indian population on this reserve. It also seems to me that it would be in their interests to have the high school students enrolled in a larger unit where they would have an opportunity to broaden their experience by associating with other children.

I realize that as the solicitor for the Alberta Indian Association you have a responsibility to make clear to me their views on these matters but I would hope that in your frequent contacts with them that you would explain to them the advantages of the students attending a larger school than could be established at Morley.

May I thank you for the very kind wishes and your generous offer of assistance which are most welcome.

Yours sincerely,



R. A. Bell,  
Minister.



made a similar threat last year, but the action they had proposed to take did not materialize.

Mr. Knapp, Indian Superintendent at St. Paul, is attending a band meeting at Cold Lake tomorrow. If there are any further developments following this meeting, I shall write to you again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. F. Battle', written in a cursive style.

R. F. Battle,  
Regional Supervisor of Indian Agencies.

cc: Indian Affairs Branch - Ottawa  
Supt. S. C. Knapp



CANADA

MINISTER OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

Ottawa 4, June 10, 1963.

Mrs. Ruth L. Gorman, B.A., LL.B.,  
Barrister and Solicitor,  
2713 - 10th Street, S.W.,  
Calgary, Alta.

Dear Mrs. Gorman:

I acknowledge your letter of May 13th addressed to the Acting Director of Indian Affairs regarding educational matters on the Blood Reserve.

I understand Mr. Gordon has replied to you regarding the contents of your letter and the petition from the Band Council.

May I thank you for the interest you have taken in these matters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Guy Favreau'.

Guy Favreau,  
Minister.