

ALBERNI INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL, PORT ALBERNI, BC

29 students were listed on the NCTR website in 2021 as having died at the former Alberni Indian Residential School at Port Alberni, BC:

<https://nctr.ca/residential-schools/british-columbia/alberni/>

Annie Jack	Not known
Bertha Fred	1937-02-14
Cyril Mussel	1946-10-04
Dalton Silver	1941-06-13
David Thomas	1972-11-11
Edward Thompson	1946-01-01
Gary Hopkins	1973-05-13
Gary James Hopkins	1981-03-31
Gary Ross	1962-09-05
Gerald Wilson	1970-07-09
Herb Robert Green	1951-01-01
Ivan Wilson	1973-11-10
Jack Williams	1905-11-19
Katie Taylor	1908-12-12
Lily Peal Smith	1945-12-03
Maisie Shaw	1946-12-26
Mary Bob	1937-02-14
Mary Elaine George	1964-10-05
Mary Taylor	1908-10-01
Maud Jackson	1908-11-01 – 1908-11-30
Mitchell Joseph	1969-05-26
Nellie Kiutesi	Not known
Norman Bob	1942-04-07
Shirley Leslie Williams	1963-05-17
Taylor Santo	1906-08-13
Theodore Mckay	1941-05-22
Violet McKay	1937-02-14
Virginia Moses	1946-03-15
Yinnito Taylor	1899-07-01 – 1899-07-31

The above-referenced 29 students are not ‘missing’. They are listed below in the order in which they appeared on the NCTR website with the following indications as to source material concerning the date of death, cause of death, and place of burial for each student.

(1) **Names followed by an asterisk** are students for whom the BC Archives has an online death record, although a microfilmed copy of the full death certificate is not available for viewing online. Where a BC death record exists, a copy of the full death certificate also likely exists, and can be ordered at a cost of \$50 per certificate. BC Archives death records can be searched for here:

<http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy>

(2) **Names followed by the letter [C]** are students for whom the BC Archives has a full copy of the death certificate which can be viewed online at the link above.

(3) **The letters DIA** indicate that the student's death was reported in a Department of Indian Affairs Annual Report. DIA Annual Reports can be accessed here:

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/first-nations/indian-affairs-annual-reports/Pages/search.aspx>

Annie Jack (date of death unknown) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED]

Bertha Fred* (1937/2/14), 8 yrs old; d. Port Alberni

Cyril Mussel (1946/10/4) [C]; 14 yrs; Soowahlie Band; d. Coqualeetza Indian Hospital, Sardis; tuberculous meningitis due to pulmonary tuberculosis; death certificate signed by doctor; buried Soowahlie Indian Reserve, Chilliwack; [NB: death certificate states name was Cyril **Mussell**]

Dalton Silver* (1941/6/13), 10 yrs old; d. Port Alberni [NB: article by nephew, also named Dalton Silver, at:

<https://www.abbynews.com/news/sumas-first-nation-chief-dumbstruck-by-residential-school-assignment-says-more-education-needed/>

David Thomas (1972/11/11) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED]

Edward Thompson (1946/1/1) [C]; 11 yrs old; Nitinaht Band, Dodger's Cove Reserve, Bamfield; d. Port Alberni (drowned after falling off float in Alberni Canal, described as 'public place'); coroner's inquest held; autopsy; death certificate signed by Indian Agent and coroner; buried Sheshaht Cemetery, Port Alberni [NB: death certificate states date of death was 1946/7/27, i.e. during summer holidays]

Gary Hopkins (1973/5/13), [C]; 19 yrs old; employed as shoreworker for 5 years prior to death, fishing industry, Milbanke, Shearwater, BC); d. Prince George (#205, 1699 Ingledeew Street); cerebral oedema due to effects of alcohol, possible asphyxia; autopsy; death certificate signed by mother and coroner; buried Bella Bella Cemetery [NB: not a student at Alberni Indian Residential School]

Gary James Hopkins (1981/3/31) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED]

Gary Ross (1962/9/5) [C]; 8 yrs old; d. Cariboo Memorial Hospital, Williams Lake; accidentally shot by brother; death certificate signed by father and coroner; buried on parents' ranch [NB: death certificate states name was Gary **Peter** Ross] [NB: death certificate identifies racial group as **white**] [NB: death certificate says 'child'; may not have been a student at Alberni Indian Residential School]

Gerald Wilson (1970/7/9), [C]; 19 yrs old; d. St George's Hospital, Alert Bay; lymphoblastic leukemia; ill for more than a year prior to death; death certificate signed by father and coroner; buried Christ Church Cemetery, Alert Bay [NB: death certificate states name was Gerald **Eugene** Wilson]

Herb Robert Green (1951/1/1), [C]; 11 yrs old; d. by drowning (off south end of Jayas Island north of Port Simpson); coroner's inquiry held; death certificate signed by mother and coroner; buried Port Simpson Indian Reserve Cemetery [NB: death certificate states name was **Herbert** Robert Green] [NB: death certificate states date of death was 1951/7/16, i.e. during summer holidays]

Ivan Wilson (1973/11/10), [C]; 15 yrs old; d. by drowning (concussion after suicide jump from McCoy Creek bridge (150 ft) on logging road near Port Alberni); probable acute alcohol intoxication; death certificate signed by mother and coroner; autopsy; buried Hector Road Cemetery (Sheshaht Cemetery), Port Alberni [NB: death certificate states name was Ivan **Thomas** Wilson]

Jack Williams (1905/11/19) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED] [NB: DIA Annual Report for year ending 30 June 1906 states: *One boy died, of heart failure.*]

Katie Taylor (1908/12/12) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED] [NB: DIA Annual Report for year ending 31 March 1909 states: *Four girls died during the year, 2 from tubercular meningitis, the other 2 from pulmonary trouble.*]

Lily Peal Smith* (1945/12/3), 12 yrs old; d. Port Alberni [NB: death record states name was Lily Smith]

Maisie Shaw (1946/12/26), [C]; 14 yrs old; Nitinaht Band; d. West Coast Hospital, Port Alberni; acute rheumatic pericarditis; death certificate signed by doctor and Indian Agent; buried Sheshaht Cemetery, Port Alberni

Mary Bob* (1937/2/14), 15 yrs; d. Port Alberni [NB: death record states date of death was 1937/2/5]

Mary Elaine George (1964/10/5), [C]; 7 yrs old; d. West Coast General Hospital, Port Alberni; bronchopneumonia; autopsy; death certificate signed by father and coroner; buried 1st Reserve, Port Alberni [NB: death certificate states date of death was 1964/10/6] [NB: death certificate lists as 'infant' and 'child', not 'student'; may not have been a student Alberni Indian Residential School]

Mary Taylor (1908/10/1) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED] [NB: see entries for Katie Taylor above and Maud Jackson below]

Maud Jackson (1908/11/1 – 1908/11/30) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED] [NB: see entries for Katie Taylor and Mary Taylor above]

Mitchell Joseph (1969/5/26) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED]

Nellie Kiutesi (date of death unknown) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED]

Norman Bob* (1942/4/7), 8 yrs old; d. Cowichan [NB: death record states name was Norman **James** Bob] [NB: may not have been a student at Alberni Indian Residential School; appears to have died at home at Cowichan]

Shirley Leslie Williams (1963/5/17), [C]; 8 yrs old; d. West Coast General Hospital, Port Alberni; acute rheumatic myocarditis & endocarditis; death certificate signed by mother and doctor; buried Alberni New Cemetery

Taylor Santo (1906/8/13) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED] [NB: DIA annual report for year ending 31 March 1907 states: *During the year two boys died, one in Victoria shortly after leaving hospital, and another in school of typhoid fever.*]

Theodore McKay* (1941/5/22), 11 yrs old; d. Alberni

Violet McKay* (1937/2/14), 12 yrs old; d. Port Alberni

Virginia Moses (1946/3/15), [C]; 14 yrs; Ohiet Band, Sarita Reserve, Bamfield; d. West Coast General Hospital, Port Alberni; TB peritonitis due to pulmonary TB; death certificate signed by doctor and Indian Agent; buried Opetchesah Cemetery, Port Alberni [NB: death certificate states date of death was 1946/3/16] For her burial, see Find A Grave at:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/212721991/virginia-moses>

Yinnito Taylor (1899/7/1 – 1899/7/31) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED] DIA annual report for year ending 30 June 1899 states: ‘*Yinnito Taylor, who was about nine or ten years of age, died during July from scrofulous enlargements of the neck.*’ [NB: DIA annual report is for year ended 30 June 1899; since Yinnito Taylor died in July, date of death was between 1 July and 31 July **1898**]

Compiled by Nina Green; updated 8 November 2021, 11 April 2022, 19 November 2022.