

St Joseph's Indian Residential School, Williams Lake, BC

16 students were listed on the NCTR website in 2021 as having died at the former St Joseph's Indian Residential School:

<https://nctr.ca/residential-schools/british-columbia/cariboo-williams-lake/>

Remembering the Following Students:

Name	Date of Death (Year/Month/Day)
Alex Bob	1945-05-18
Augustine Allen	1920-08-01 – 1920-08-31
Celena Alexis	1977-03-02
Duncan Sticks	1902-02-08
Dwayne Jack	1981-02-16
Gordon Lulua	1969-07-04
Irene Johnny	1946-01-01
Jackie Paul	1946-01-01 – 1946-03-31
Jimmy Murphy	1948-02-13 – 1948-12-31
Joan Eugene	1942-11-01 – 1942-11-31
Kenneth C. Narcisse	1960-10-14
Louis P. Johnson	1942-05-01 – 1942-05-31
Marvin Jeff	1967-11-26
Patrick Chah	1939-01-20
Stanley Setah	1971-09-01 – 1971-09-30
Harry Patrick	1963-01-01

The above-referenced 16 students are not 'missing'. They are listed below in the order in which they appear 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) Family Search refers to the Family Search website at this link:

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1538285>

Alex Bob* (1945/5/18), 8 yrs old [NB: there are two BC death records for an Alex Bob who died on that date, one stating that he died at Ceepeecee, the other stating that his place of death is ‘unknown’] [NB: Family Search states he was a member of the Canim Lake Band, parents were Edward Bob and Rose Archie] [NB: the two records should probably be corrected and amalgamated]

Augustine Allen (1920/8/1 - 1920/8/31) [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED] [NB: For circumstances of his death, see Furniss, Elizabeth, *Victims of Benevolence*, Cariboo Tribal Council, 1995, p. 92: ate poisonous water hemlock with 8 other boys during summer holidays (on no evidence, Furniss terms it a ‘suicide pact’, despite the fact that people still die today from having mistaken water hemlock for edible plants which it resembles); school notified Augustine Allen’s father, Paul Stanislaus of Canim Lake, that burial would take place ‘in the morning’ (almost certainly in the St Joseph’s Mission Cemetery)] [NB: Charlene Belleau claims Augustine Allen was her great-grandfather; clearly impossible as he died as a child and left no descendants; see:

<https://www.cfnrfm.ca/2021/07/21/former-esketemic-chief-appointed-as-first-nation-liaison/>

Celena Alexis (1977/3/2), [C]; 17 yrs old; Anahim Lake Band; d. in bush at Anahim Lake; acute alcohol poisoning, exposure; autopsy; death certificate signed by coroner; buried by family, Anahim Lake Cemetery [NB: death record states name was Celena **Catherine** Alexis] [NB: not identified as a student in death certificate]

Duncan Sticks (1902/2/8), [DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED] [NB: For circumstances of his death, see Furniss, *supra*, p. 62: 8 yrs old; ran away with nine other boys; d. overnight; coroner’s inquest held; Duncan Sticks’ father, Johnny Sticks, testified that ‘I was glad for him to be at the school’, and that when Duncan had run away earlier he had brought him back to the school]

Dwayne Jack (1981/2/16), [C]; 9 yrs old; #71 Alexis Creek Band; d. Cariboo Memorial Hospital, Williams Lake; bronchiopneumonia (other contributing causes, including Laurence-Moon-Biedl syndrome); living at home due to chronic illness; autopsy; death certificate signed by coroner; buried Redstone Indian Reserve Cemetery, Chilanko Forks [NB: death certificate states name was **Dwain** Jack]

Gordon Lulua* (1969/7/4), 6 yrs old; d. Vancouver [NB: doesn’t appear to have been a student at St Joseph’s]

Irene Johnny (1946/1/1), [C]; 11 yrs old; Toosey Band; d. Alexis Creek (death certificate confusingly states she died at Alexis Creek and in the ‘Chilcoten Hospital’; appears she died on the reserve); tuberculosis; death certificate signed by doctor and Indian Agent; no information as to burial [NB: death certificate states date of death was 1946/5/10] [NB: death certificate states name was Irene **May Helene** Johnny] [NB: note on death certificate states original registration was as Irene **May Long** Johnny]

Jackie Paul (1946/1/1 – 1946/3/31, [C]; 15 yrs old; Quesnel Band; parents deceased; d. Coqualeetza Indian Hospital, Sardis; thymic death (had pulmonary tuberculosis for 5 yrs 6 mos); autopsy; death certificate signed by doctor; buried Skwah Reserve, Chilliwack [NB: death certificate states name was **Jack** Paul] [NB: death certificate states date of death was 1946/1/28]

Jimmy Murphy (1948/2/13 – 1948/12/31), [C]; 14 yrs old; d. Coqualeetza Indian Hospital, Sardis; pulmonary tuberculosis; death certificate signed by doctor; buried Anahim Indian Reserve Burial Grounds [NB: death certificate states date of death was 1948/5/14]

Joan Eugene (1942/11/1 – 1942/11/31), DEATH CERTIFICATE NOT YET LOCATED [NB: Appears likely she was Joan **Eugenie Alphonsee**, for whom there is a death record stating she was 10 yrs old; d. Williams Lake 1942/12/19] [NB: Family Search states parents were Eugene Alphonsee and Christina Johnny, and that she d. Casitro [sic for 'Cariboo'] Residential School; appears likely she died at the school]

Kenneth C. Narcisse (1960/10/14), [C]; 13 yrs old; d. War Memorial Hospital, Williams Lake; acute glomerulonephritis (also undernutrition – anaemia for 2 yrs); death certificate signed by uncle and doctor; buried Pavilion Indian Reserve [NB: Family Search states parents were Charles Dan Narcisse and Mary Edwards]

Louis P. Johnson* (1942/5/1 – 1942/5/31), 13 yrs old; d. Williams Lake [NB: death record states name was Louis **Philip** Johnson] [NB: death record states date of death was 1942/5/19] [NB: Family Search states parents were David Johnson and Celestine Joe Clemens and that he was a member of the Alkali Lake Band]

Marvin Jeff (1967/11/26), [NB: Appears likely he was **Raymond** Jeff, a student at St Joseph's, who died on that date; [C]; 15 yrs old; d. 150 Mile House; drowned ('fell through thin ice on lake'); autopsy; death certificate signed by coroner; buried Indian Cemetery, Redstone Indian Reserve]

[NB: There is a death certificate for a Marvin Jeff (1959/3/8), 17 yrs old; ranch labourer; d. Anahim Indian Reserve meadow; exposure ('incapacitated because of taking excessive quantity of alcohol'); autopsy; death certificate signed by RCMP officer and coroner; buried Anahim Indian Reserve cemetery, Hanceville, BC]

[NB: there is also a BC death certificate for **Bernard** Jeff (1967/7/8), 7 yrs old; d. Anahim Reserve; skull fracture (thrown out of father's car and run; autopsy; death certificate signed by deputy coroner; buried Indian Cemetery, Alexis Creek [NB: not identified as a student in death certificate]

Patrick Chah* (1939/1/20), 13 yrs old; d. Williams Lake [NB: death record states name was Patrick **Char**] [NB: Family Search states parents were Luceese Char and Margaret Charley and that he was a member of the Gitlakdamix Band]

Stanley Setah (1971/9/1 – 1971/9/30), [C]; 6 yrs old; #70 Nemaiah Valley Band; d. in forest 30 miles S of Stone Reserve, Hanceville ('child became lost' on 1971/8/2); exposure and starvation; Dr Mark Skinner, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, in charge of disposal of remains on 1979/10/26; death certificate signed by coroner [NB:

not identified as a student in death certificate] [NB: death certificate states date of death was approximately 1971/**8/15**]

Harry Patrick (1963/1/1), [C]; 15 yrs old; d. Stump Lake, Nazko Indian Reserve; drowned (skating on thin ice, which broke); death certificate signed by coroner; buried by Band members, Nazko Indian Cemetery [NB: death certificate states date of death was **1962/12/14**] [NB: not identified as a student in death certificate]

Compiled by Nina Green 14 November 2021; updated 19 November 2022.