



# St. James' United Church

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

*James F. Shilton*  
Rev. James F. Shilton, B.A.

Minister

*Please return to*

Box 151,

Wolseley, Sask.

October 6th, 1953.

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The Rev. C.H. Best,  
Superintendent of Home Missions,  
The United Church of Canada,  
441 Somerset Bldg., WINNIPEG, Man.

Dear Dr. Best:

I received your letter of August 31st. There has been nothing new on the subject until now, and that is why I have not written sooner.

Since you wrote, most of the children from the Assiniboine reserve have returned to Brandon school. One family, however, has stuck with its resolve to keep their children home with the plan of changing their religion and having the children go to a Catholic School. The reasons for this I have not yet got to the bottom of. I am new on the combined Wolseley-Sintaluta Charge, and properly speaking, the Reserve is not my responsibility, but I am carrying on a contact until the presbytery can make some better arrangement.

About two weeks ago two Thompson girls, along with a girl from Carlyle I believe, ran away from the Brandon School and came home to the Reserve. They claimed that they had been unduly disciplined by being made to scrub floors until midnight for the small misdemeanor of talking during sewing class, or something like that. Their return home has caused a good deal of discontent on the Reserve and has strengthened the former general criticism of the Brandon School on the grounds of poor food and poor discipline. It was a great surprise to the Agent to have these two particular girls come home, because they have always got on well at school before and they come from one of the best homes on the Reserve. I went out to see the girls one day last week but they seemed too frightened to talk much, and so I got little more out of them than what I have already written, except the complaint that there is prejudice against Sask. students at Brandon.

I have no way of judging the accuracy of the complaints, but I do think that they warrant an investigation of some kind. If after making judicious inquiry, you could assure me that the complaints were groundless, then I could speak some word of re-assurance to the people on the reserve. Your letter, however, raises some doubts in my mind about the staff at Brandon, and I should be glad if you would write me again, telling me for one thing how much supervision is exercised over Mr. Strapp. I am wondering if he has not too free a hand, and has come to the position where he does not accept advise or supervision.

I have written frankly, and I shall be glad to have you do the same.

Yours sincerely,

Copy: RWIC Elliott

*James F. Shilton*