



# Hunger, Human Experimentation and the Legacy of Residential Schools

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INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH  
DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION



DIRECTION DES AFFAIRES INDIENNES  
MINISTÈRE DE LA CITOYENNETÉ ET DE L'IMMIGRATION

Ottawa 2, December 10, 1965.

OUR FILE NO. 1/25-20-1 (E.24)  
Notre dossier n°.....

Mr. Russ Moses,  
Information Section,  
Room 425,  
Bourque Building,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Moses:

During the week beginning with January 10, 1966, the Residential School Principals from all regions will be meeting at Elliot Lake, Ontario, to discuss various aspects of residential schools.

In order to bring as many view points as possible to these deliberations, a selected number of Indians have been invited to submit their views and you are one of the persons who has been selected.

We would be most grateful to you if you would put your thoughts regarding residential schools...

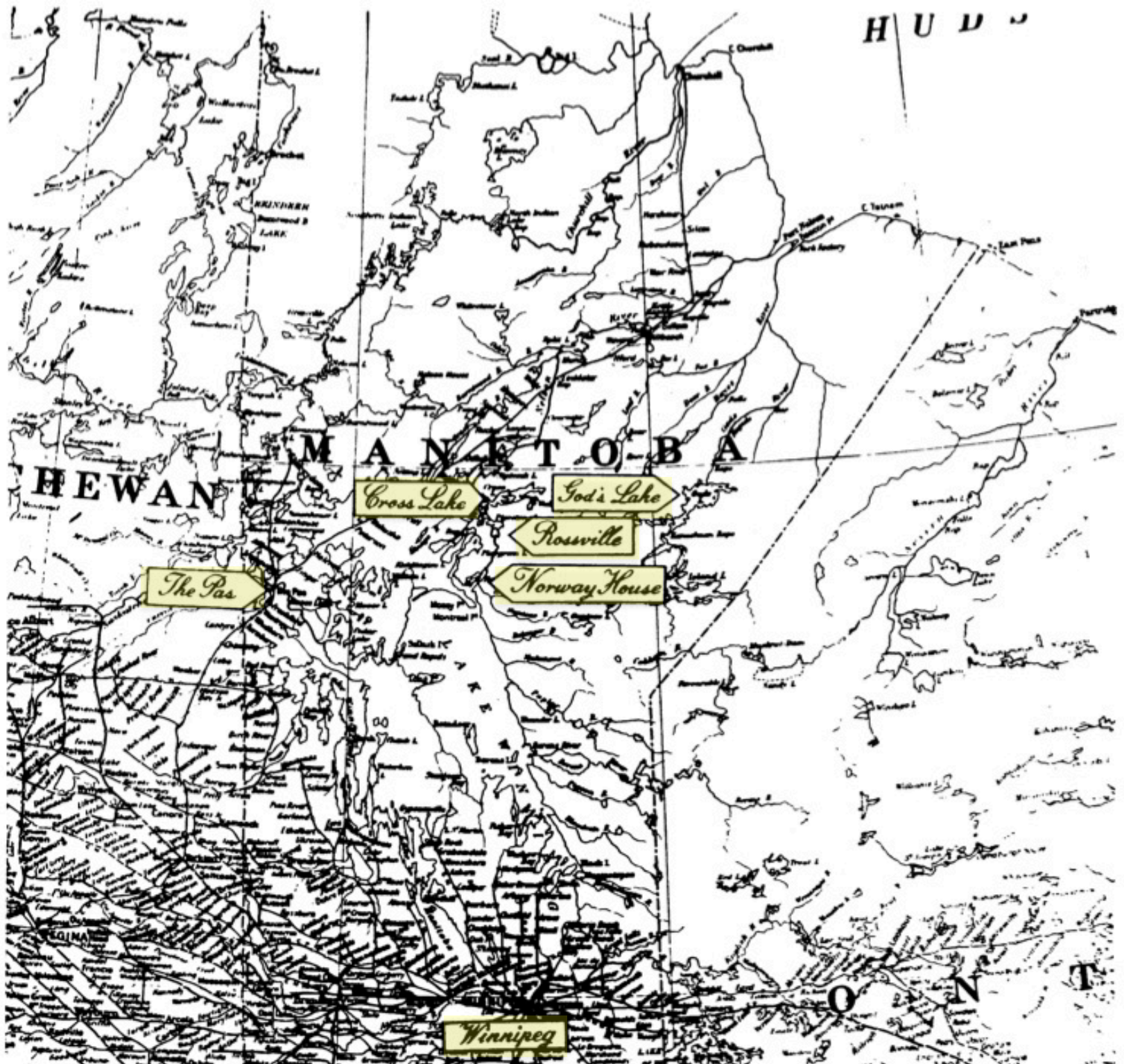


**The Mohawk Institute (Mush Hole)  
1828-1970**



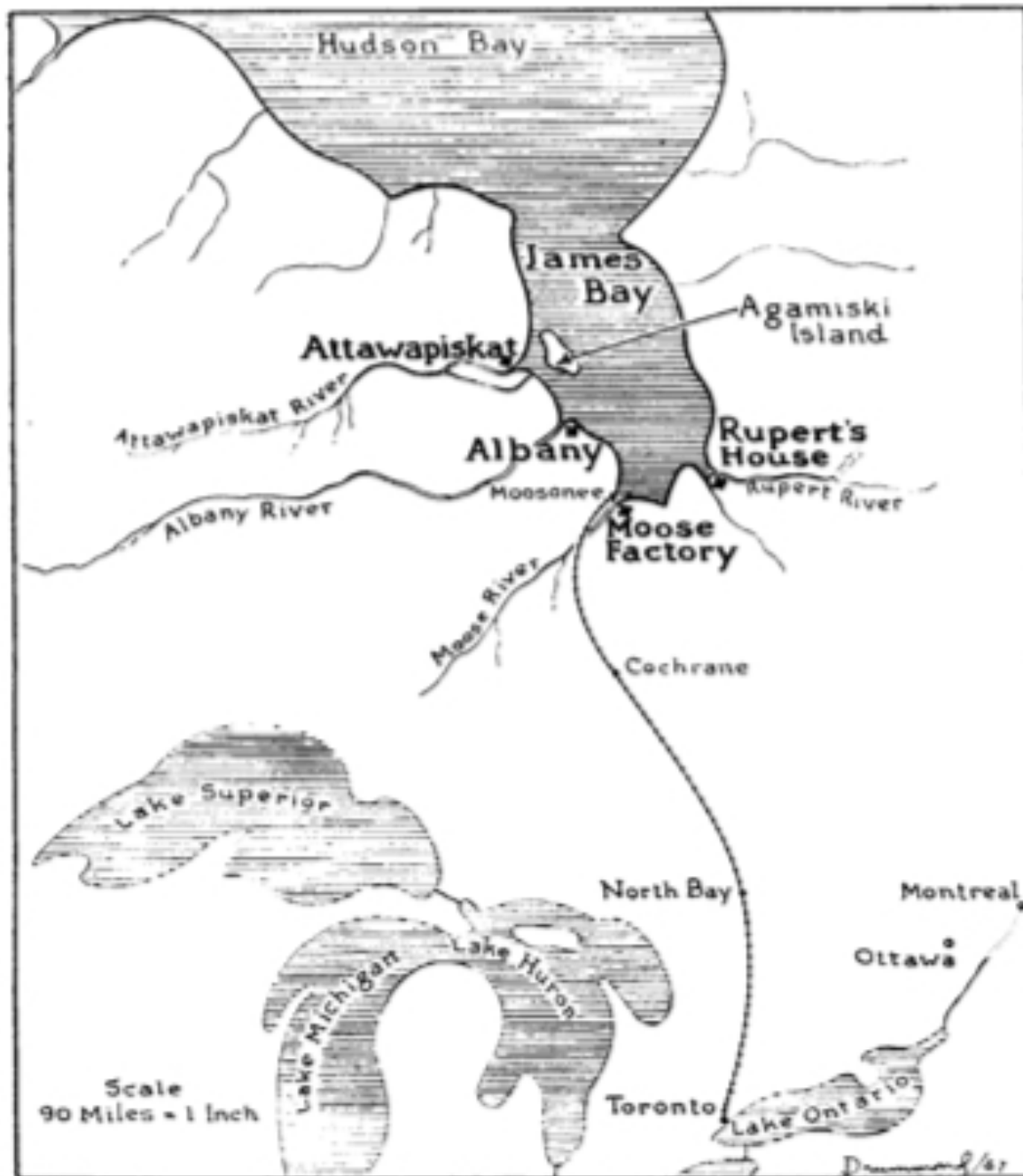


The authors, standing beside the snowhouse built by Ralph Jardine at Norway House. L. to R.: Dr. Moore, Indian Affairs; Wing Commander Tisdall; Dr. Kruse, Milbank Memorial Fund. With them is R. H. G. Bonnycastle, H B C, who accompanied them on their tour.



*Dr. Percy Moore*  
Superintendent of Medical Services  
Indian Affairs Branch  
Department of Mines and Natural  
Resources





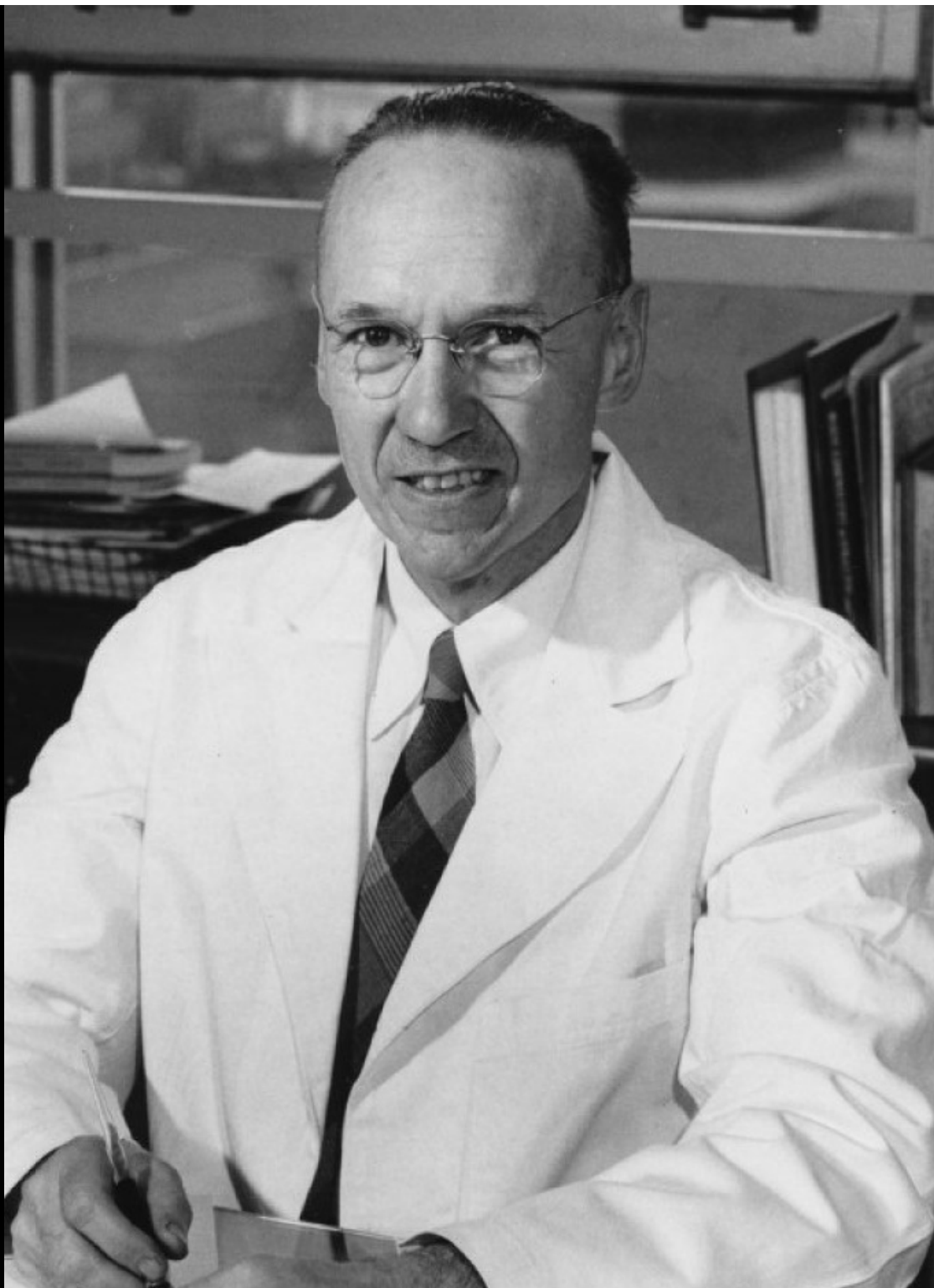
**Fig. 1.**—Great Lakes and James Bay regions showing Toronto, Moosonee, Albany, Attawapiskat and Rupert's House.



*Dr. Frederick F. Tisdall*  
Toronto Hospital for Sick Children  
Co-Inventor of Pablum



***Dr. Lionel Bradley Pett***  
**Director, Nutrition Division**  
**Department of Health and**  
**National Welfare**



**A member of the Nutrition  
Division research team at the  
Shubenacadie Residential  
School, 1948**



**Nutrition Division researcher  
drawing blood from a student at  
the Alberni Residential School,  
Port Alberni, BC, 1948**



# Nuremberg Doctors Trial, 1946-47



Defendants seated under guard in the dock behind the defense counsel during the Doctors Trial, which was held in Nuremberg, Germany, from December 9, 1946, to August 20, 1947. Image from, <http://www.ushmm.org/information/exhibitions/online-features/special-focus/doctors-trial>

going to try to win the prize  
Mrs. Caldwell said he was  
giving it for what we have  
earned from the picture show.  
Please say "hello" to Nurses  
and Doctor Brown and thank  
them all for what they have done for  
us.

Doctor Pett, these are the  
things I'm going to eat when I  
get home. Because we don't get them at school.

pancakes  
dried fish  
toast  
scrambled eggs  
fish eggs  
water melon  
strawberries  
pie  
clams  
sea eggs  
deer meat  
juices  
pickles

homemade bread  
" " buns  
fried eggs  
bacon & eggs  
crackers  
cherries  
soup berry ice cream  
A. B. & soup  
mustard  
duck soup  
chocolate milk  
herring  
corn

fruit your friend,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

EXEMPTION/EXCEPTION 1811-  
ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT  
LOI SUR L'ACCÈS À L'INFORMATION

# “Hunger was never absent”: How residential school diets shaped current patterns of diabetes among Indigenous peoples in Canada

■ Cite as: *CMAJ* 2017 August 14;189:E1043-5. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.170448

One of the most consistent themes in testimony provided to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) was the common experience of hunger at residential schools. In his statement to the TRC, survivor Andrew Paul spoke of the unrelenting hunger he experienced during his time at Aklavik Roman Catholic Residential School: “We cried to have something good to eat before we sleep. A lot of the times the food we had was rancid, full of maggots, stink. Sometimes we would sneak away from school to go visit our aunts or uncles, just to have a piece of bannock.”<sup>1</sup> Ray Silver described how he and other children at the Alberni Indian Residential School coped with persistent



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Ian Mosby and Tracey Galloway, “Hunger was never absent”: How residential school diets shaped current patterns of diabetes among Indigenous peoples in Canada.” *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 189, no. 32 (2017): E1043-E104

# Experiments and Studies Identified in the Final Report of the TRC

- 1. ESP Experiment, 1940-41**
  - Brandon IRS
- 2. Vitamin D Experiment, 1966**
  - Breynat Hall IRS
- 3. Amebicide Experiment, 1964**
  - Onion Lake IRS
- 4. Isoniazid Experiment, 1960-1**
  - Fort McPherson IRS, Inuvik IRS, Fort Simpson IRS and Fort Smith IRS
- 5. Hemoglobin study, 1967**
  - Qu'Appelle IRS
- 6. Bedwetting study, 1960s**
  - Saskatchewan Schools
- 7. Dermatoglyphic (fingerprint) survey , 1968**
  - Alert Bay IRS, Kamloops IRS, Fraser Lake IRS and Williams Lake IRS