

Educational Highlights - The Pas

- 1907 A Federal Indian School is operated on the 100 block of Fischer Avenue.
- 1909 A school committee is formed when the Federal Indian School was moved across the Saskatchewan River. The first public school in the community of Le Pas, NWT is temporarily operated in Halcrow's pool room on Fischer Avenue at Fourth Street West (present location of the Avenue Hotel). A second temporary facility was at the Hudson Bay Store on the NW corner of First Street West and Fischer Avenue.
- 1910 The first one room Larose School building is built between Third Street West and Fourth Street West on Larose Avenue. It is built with free labour. In 1916 it is moved to Big Eddy to serve as a school for non-status native students.
- 1912 A Roman Catholic convent school (Sacred Heart School) is opened in 1912, in former residence of the RC Bishop.
- 1912 The Pas School District #1635 is formed in The Pas in May - the first school district in northern Manitoba. A School Board was elected, taking over from the school committee..
- 1913 A one room Armstrong School is built on the present location of the provincial building on Third Street West. In 1915 it is purchased by the Anglican parish and moved to First Street West for use as a parish hall.
- 1914 One room Fingerville School is built, located on First Street East between Head and Crossley Avenues. It houses Grades 1,2,3 and removes overcrowding in the previous schools. It is later bought by the Salvation Army and moved to west side of 200 block on Edwards Avenue (across from the then Opasquia Hotel). Teacher Mary Duncan arrives in The Pas.
- 1914 Rate payers petition under Public Schools Act for and are granted a bilingual teacher.
- 1915 The Pas School (red brick) is built to replace the three one room schools. Opened in February 1916, only three of the eight rooms are used and it is often seen as a "white elephant" until the 1930s.
- 1917 A new four room Sacred Heart School is constructed at 60 First Street West. It opens in 1918 and is operated by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary. It is enlarged in 1929 to eight rooms and contains a Commercial Course available to all students in The Pas, the only such training program until Margaret Barbour Collegiate Institute opens.
- 1931 Due to enrolment growth, two annexes (5 classrooms and 3 classrooms)) are

gradually added alongside The Pas School.

- 1932 The Pas Elementary School is organized under a separate principal from the high school. Mary Duncan is named the elementary principal.
- 1933 Big Eddy School District #2240 is formed. It served non-status native and Métis students. The former Larose School is moved there.
- 1954 The Pas Collegiate Institute opens at 60 Third Street West for Grades 7-12. Red brick building and its annexes become The Pas Elementary School.
- 1958 Kelsey Elementary on Stewart Street and Opasquia Elementary on Eighth Street West are opened to replace the annexes.
- 1959 Kelsey School Division is formed in 1959, and takes over the two one room schools in the Carrot Valley School District #2283 and one in Wanless School District #2301. Their students are bused to schools in The Pas.
- 1963 A second two story school building is built along side each original one story building at Kelsey and Opasquia Elementary schools.
- 1964 Students from The Pas Indian Day School on “The Pas Reserve” are amalgamated into the Kelsey School Division through a special tuition agreement. As a result, major local curricular changes are developed, and eventually this spreads to provincial curricula.
- 1966 Kelsey School Division assumes operation of the Sacred Heart School. The Pas Elementary is renamed Mary Duncan Elementary. The first school division Superintendent, Allan Watson, is hired.
- 1967 A new Margaret Barbour Collegiate Institute opens on Smith Avenue. The former high school building becomes Mary Duncan Junior High. The Northern Manitoba Vocational Centre opens. It is renamed Keewatin Community College in 1969 and renamed as University College of the North in 2006. It is used to provide industrial vocational courses to high school students.
- 1971 Mary Duncan Junior High is destroyed by arson fire. The east wing is saved. The students are housed temporarily at MBCI, Opasquia School and KCC.
- 1972 Due to phenomenal growth in student numbers since 1969 as a result of the construction of a pulp and paper complex at The Pas, new school facilities are added, joining together the two adjacent school buildings at Kelsey and Opasquia Schools. These two sites are now provided with new facilities: gymnasium, science room, music room, administration offices, library and some open area classrooms.
- 1973 A new Scott Bateman Junior High School is organized and the new Mary Duncan

Elementary opened. Mary Duncan Elementary School is an open area school and served amalgamated students from the original Sacred Heart and Mary Duncan (Red Brick) Schools.

- 1974 The “Red Brick” building is torn down to provide playground space for Mary Duncan Elementary. The new Scott Bateman Junior High school is opened.
In 1974 a community owned 25 metre pool is added to the south side of MBCI, along with a school addition on the south end holding a new library, a language lab, business education facilities and vocational classrooms.
- 1975 Sacred Heart School building is torn down. Its foundation is used for a new Roman Catholic Diocesan Centre. Later this is converted into Archdiocese offices.
- 1985 The open area classrooms are closed in Mary Duncan and Kelsey Schools.
- 1991 Scott Bateman Junior High and Opasquia Elementary are reorganized as middle schools with Grades 5 to 8 classes.
- 1996 An adult education program is added under the MBCI principalship. It is located at Keewatin Community College for some years, then is moved to the upper floor at Kelsey School.
- 2002 Opasquia School is reorganized as a dual track (French Immersion & English) middle school. Scott Bateman Junior High becomes a Grade 5-8 middle school.
- 2006 Opasquia Middle School is again reorganized as a dual track elementary (K - Grade 5) facility. Grade 5 students are added to Kelsey Community School and removed from Scott Bateman Middle School.
- 2007 Kelsey Adult Learning Centre and alternate school classes at middle school and senior high school levels are moved to the Mary Duncan School site. Kelsey School is designated a community school.
- 2013 Mary Duncan School is burned by arsonists. The east wing is saved again.
- 2016 Mary Duncan School, rebuilt with a different design, is opened in the Fall.

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