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COMMUNITY  
HIGHLIGHTS

Fort Severn FN  
Poplar Hill FN  
McDowell Lake FN  
Keewaywin FN  
Deer Lake FN  
North Spirit Lake FN  
Slate Falls FN  
Bearskin FN  
Wunnumin Lake FN  
Lac Seul FN  
Fort Hope FN  
Sandy Lake FN

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Fort Severn FN

Fort Severn First Nation is a Cree First Nation located on Hudson Bay approximately 680 km north northeast of Red Lake. It is the most northern community in Ontario. The town is linked by a winter road in the winter to Peawanuck in the east. In 1689, the Hudson's Bay Company built Fort Severn at this site; it was one of the earliest English fur trading posts in the New World.

The registered population as of July, 2016 was 704. The local band council consists of an elected chief, a deputy chief and band councillors. There is no hospital in Fort Severn with medical needs provided at the local nursing

station or via Keewaytinook Okimakanak Telemedicine. There are only local roads in town and residents travel by car, snowmobile, quad or walking. The Fort Severn airport is located a short distance from the settlement and is accessible by road.

A new school will open in September, featuring a 1,880 m2 facility designed for the enrollment of 112 students ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 8.



Fort Severn River flowing into Hudson Bay



Main entrance to the new Fort Severn school



Computer lab set-up in progress



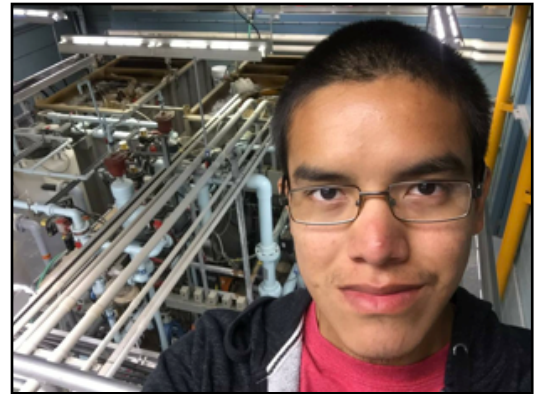


Poplar Hill FN

*The design for the new Poplar Hill First Nation school in northwestern Ontario incorporates vivid exterior colours that reflect Poplar Hill's active outdoor lifestyle. The blue metal cladding and warm brick complement the colours in the community logo. The school opened in the fall of 2016.*

Poplar Hill First Nation is approximately 120 km north of Red Lake near the Manitoba border. Poplar Hill separated from Pikangikum First Nation in 1978 and both First Nations still have close ties. Poplar Hill is part of the Keewaytinook Okimakanak Council and a signatory to Treaty 5. The community has a population of approximately 450 community members.

Erickson Owen, another young man from Poplar Hill First Nation, recently graduated high school at Pelican Falls High School in Sioux Lookout, making headlines nationally with his 100% average. Erickson wanted to prove to his fellow classmates that "anything is possible." He is slated to attend Confederation College this fall.



Nico Suggashie

A few young residents from Poplar Hill have made the news recently. Nico Suggashie is one of the youngest water plant operators in Poplar Hill. Nico wants to continue with his certification training with the goal to offer safe potable water quality in his community. He takes pride in preventing Boil Water Advisories.



Erickson Owen

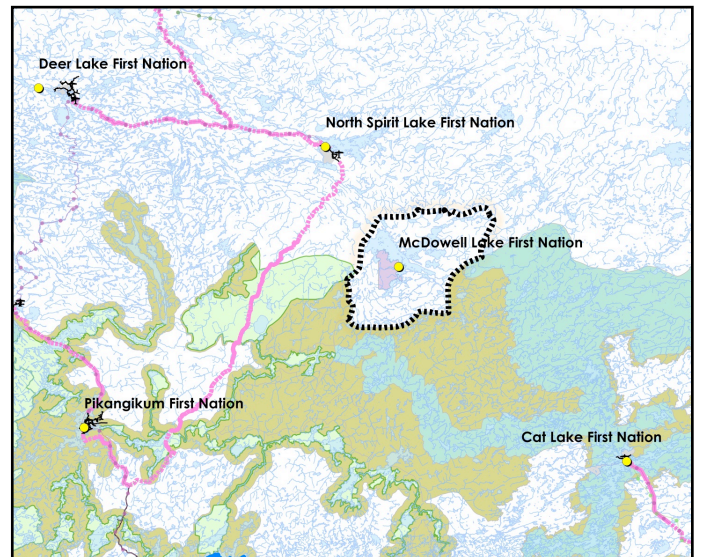




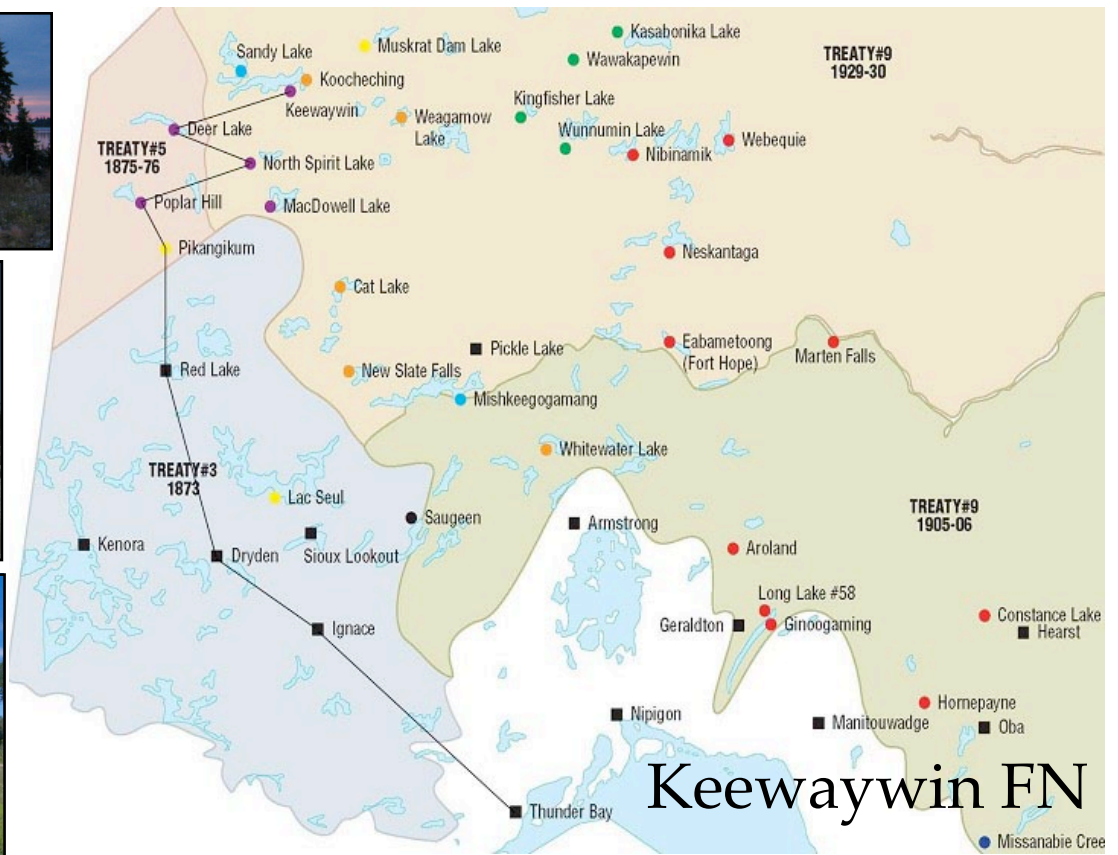
McDowell Lake First Nation is a small Oji-Cree community located in northern Ontario, located approximately 155 km northeast of Red Lake and 490 km northwest of Thunder Bay, on the western shore of McDowell Lake. As of December 2007, their registered population was 52. McDowell Lake is accessible by float and ski equipped aircraft. There is no winter road.

McDowell Lake First Nation joins a growing number of remote First Nations in Ontario's far north, which are going green. In July of 2015, a team of McDowell

community members trained and supervised by NCC Development and Solar Logix installed a 10 kW roof top solar system with a battery solution on the new band office. The new system generates enough electricity to power a community freezer and fridge, as well as lights in the band office. Before the solar install, there was no refrigeration and community members would have to cut ice in the winter and store it for use in the summer.







Keewaywin is a small Oji-Cree First Nation band government in Northern Ontario, located north of Red Lake, Ontario. It is connected to Sandy Lake First Nation by Sandy Lake. It is part of the Keewaytinook Okimakanak Council (Northern Chiefs) and the Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Sandy Lake First Nation Band members separated from Sandy Lake First Nation to form Keewaywin First Nation. The Indian reserve is entirely surrounded by the territory of the Unorganized Kenora District.

Keewaywin is policed by the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service, an Aboriginal-based service.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation hosted its Keewaywin Awards ceremony at a Celebration of Youth banquet held at an Annual Chiefs' Assembly.

"These annual awards give Nishnawbe Aski Nation an opportunity to give back to our communities," said Grand Chief Stan Beardy.

*"It is very exciting for us to recognize and acknowledge the important achievements of our people."*



*Lawrence and Dion are fully certified water operators in Keewaywin . Lawrence holds his Water Treatment Class II and Dion also has his Class I in Water Distribution. Both operators have received training from the Keewaytinook Centre.*



Lawrence Mason



Dion Kakegamic





The Deer Lake First Nation is a small Oji-Cree community which holds 1653.6 hectares of land located approximately 180 kilometers north of Red Lake, Ontario. It has an on-reserve population of approximately 1,100, and a total membership of approximately 1,200. It is accessible year-round by air, and by ice road. It is connected to Sandy Lake First Nation, and North Spirit Lake First Nation during the coldest months of the winter. This results in high costs of transportation. It is one of the few First Nations in Ontario to have signed Treaty 5. It is part of the Keewatinook Okimakanak Council (Northern Chiefs) and the Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

The people of Deer Lake are closely related to the people of Sandy lake FN and North Spirit Lake FN.

The Public Works in Deer Lake include: (1) main pipes for Duck lake residents and deliverable water to the households for Deer Lake residents, and (2) main pipes for Duck Lake residents and sewage trucks to households for Deer Lake residents.



Deer Lake FN school







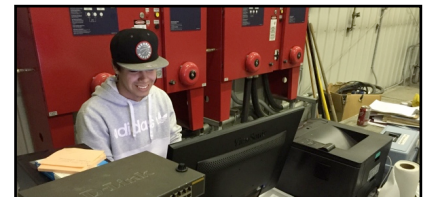
## North Spirit Lake FN

North Spirit Lake First Nation is a small Oji-Cree First Nation reserve located north of Red Lake, Ontario. It is connected to Sandy Lake FN and Deer Lake FN by winter and ice roads. It is part of the Keewaytinook Okimakanak Council (Northern Chiefs) and the Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

North Spirit Lake hosts recreational, traditional, and social activities throughout the year. Recreational, traditional, and social activities include baseball tournaments, volleyball tournaments during the summer, annual and seasonal feasts, traditional teachings in arts and crafts, traditional practices along with other holiday celebrations. Children enjoy using their community canoes during the summer. They also enjoy swimming in the lakes near their home community.

The school provides the community with education up to Grade 8. Students can then leave their community to attend high school outside of their community or attend KIHS. North Spirit has a fully equipped 24 hour nursing station.

The Station provides daily clinics, telemedicine, public health services, and emergency services. KO Telemedicine (KOTM) delivers clinical, educational and administrative services through videoconferencing and advanced information communication technologies. Social Services are usually provided by the Health department and the Band Office including; Ontario Works, Aboriginal Diabetes, Mental Health, Tikinagan Child and Family Services, and NNADAP. Nishnawbe Aski Nation Police provide policing services to the community of North Spirit Lake. Court in North Spirit Lake is held on the quarterly basis. Local food stores provide the community with basic foods and products that are needed on the daily basis.



*Quentin Rae  
water plant operator*







Slate Falls FN

Slate Falls First Nation community is located approximately 122 kilometers north of Sioux Lookout and is accessible by float plane (summer), ski plane (winter) and wheeled aircraft as there is an airstrip. The existing community is on the south shore of North Bamaji Lake. Slate Falls is also accessible by one all weather road.

assist First Nations in their construction, maintenance and public works. Everyone takes part in special events that are held in community. Community Pot-Lucks are a big thing in SFFN. An annual Traditional Hunting Week is recognized in the fall which is followed by a community gathering at the end.

People have been living in the area of Slate Falls for two centuries. Members of the Osnaburgh House Indian Band established main camps there for managing surrounding traplines and hunting grounds in the 1700's. Eventually a community developed. The leadership consists of one chief and two councillors.

Slate Falls is part of the Windigo First Nations Council. Specific services are also delivered by the Windigo Technical Services Unit, to



Slate Falls FN school entrance







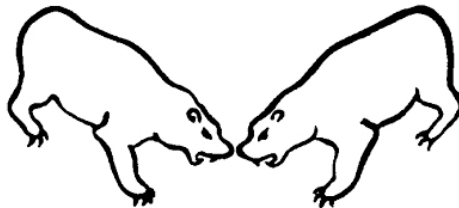
Bearskin Lake FN

The community of Bearskin Lake is located four hundred and twenty-five (425) kilometres north of Sioux Lookout. This isolated remote Northwestern Ontario community is accessible only by air or ice road. During the coldest months the road extends from Windigo Lake north through Muskrat Dam. The community is located on Lake Michikan. Three settlements make up the Bearskin Lake First Nation. The main village is situated on the west shore of the lake and all three communities are tied to one another by all weather gravel roads.

Nation is a member of the Windigo First Nations Council, a regional tribal council that is a member of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation.



Bearskin Lake Nursing Station



Prior to achieving full Band and reserve status in 1975, Bearskin was a satellite community of the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation (Big Trout Lake First Nation), 72 kilometres (45 mi) to the east. Today, Bearskin Lake First







Wunnumin Lake FN

Wunnumin First Nation is an Oji-Cree First Nation band government who inhabit 360 km northeast of Sioux Lookout. The community is located on the western shore of Wunnumin Lake and is 40 km east of Kingfisher First Nation. Wunnumin Lake First Nation can be accessed primarily through air transportation; however, during the winter season, one can also travel to this community using the winter roads. The registered population in 2007 was 565. Wunnumin Lake reserve has been divided into two sections of allotted land. The current inhabited land consists of 5,855 hectares (22.61 square miles) and then uninhabited land containing 3,797 hectares (14.66 square miles) is located several km east, on the southern shores of Wunnumin Lake. Wunnumin Lake and surrounding areas has a large variety of wildlife, aquatic life

and forest vegetation. These resources have benefited the local residents both personally and commercially. The Wunnumin community is part of the Shibogama Tribal Council and the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Treaty #9. The First Nation consists of two reserves, the inhabited Wunnumin 1 reserve (22.6 sq miles) and the smaller, uninhabited Wunnumin 2 reserve (approx 15 sq miles).



Wunnumin Lake Huskies



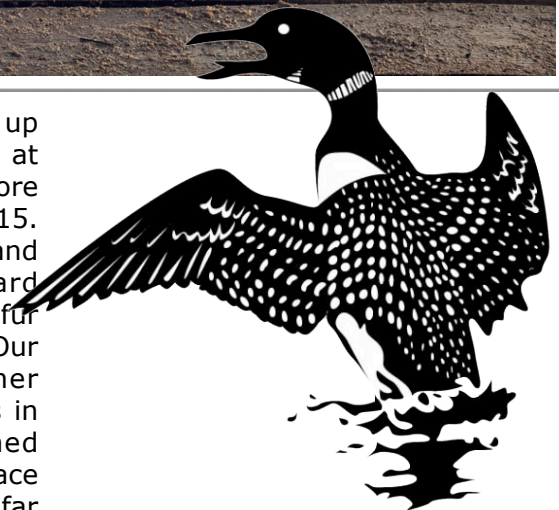




Lac Seul FN

Lac Seul First Nation (LSFN) is a community of three distinct settlements a) Frenchman's Head, b) Kejick Bay, and c) Whitefish Bay. The current on-reserve population is about 860 with a total registered population of 3,372 (as of October 2015). Our people speak Ojibway, Oji-Cree and English. Our communities are found on the southeast shores of Lac Seul Lake and extends southward to the north shores of Lost Lake. This includes 66,248 acres of land. LSFN is about 40 kilometres from the town of Sioux Lookout, while Kejick Bay and Whitefish Bay are about 65 kilometres. While inhabited for thousands of years by our ancestors, the earliest reference in historical journals was found in that of John Long, a fur trader in 1791. He reported that our ancestors called this territory "Obijikokaang" meaning Strait of the White Pines. Subsequently, the famous

Hudson's Bay Company set up the first all-year trading post at Lac Seul in 1803 and a more permanent post one in 1815. The area was then travelled and formally mapped by Edward Umpfreville, an explorer and fur trader in the late 1800's. Our ancestors, along with other Saulteaux and Ojibway tribes in Northwestern Ontario signed Treaty #3 in 1873 at a place called Northwest Angle, not far from Fort Frances. By signing this treaty, our forefathers surrendered their vast traditional territories to the official representative of the Canadian government. In return, our forefathers received land called "reserves" as well as "treaty rights" or "treaty status." The treaty was signed by Chief John Cromarty, which makes our reserve the oldest reserve in the Sioux Lookout district. By 1912, there were about 45 homes along the shoreline of what are now referred to as Kejick Bay and Whitefish Bay.



FRENCHMAN'S HEAD  
KEJICK BAY  
WHITEFISH BAY

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## Fort Hope (Eabametoong) FN

Eabametoong, also known as Fort Hope, is an Ojibway First Nation band government in the Kenora District. Located on the shore of Eabamet Lake in the Albany River system, the community is located approximately 300 km northeast of Thunder Bay. It is accessible by air or water, or by winter / ice roads which connect the community to the Northern Ontario Resource Trail.

The community came to be during the fur trade when the Hudson's Bay Company set up a trading post by Eabamet Lake in 1890. The canoe was used as the main source of transportation so the post has to be near water. As of 2007, the total membership was 2190 on the Indian registry. Approximately 1300 members live on-reserve and 890 members live off-reserve. The Ojibway language is the working

language while English is predominant with the younger generation. Eabametoong has an affiliation with the Matawa First Nations Management.

The main draw for the people of Eabametoong before the fur trade was the multitudes of various fish: sturgeon, walleye, whitefish which still inhabit the waters today.

Flag colours:

Yellow - for as long as the sun shall shine.

Green - for as long as the grass shall grow.

Blue - for as long as the rivers shall flow.



*Nursing Station*





## Sandy Lake FN

Sandy Lake First Nation is an independent Oji-Cree First Nations band government. The community is located in the Kenora district, 227 km northeast of Red Lake. It registered population in 2007 was 2,474. Sandy Lake FN maintains an affiliation with Nishnawbe Aski Nation, as a signatory to Treaty 5. Sandy Lake maintains seven neighbourhoods: the airport centre, big rock / ghost point, the old sawmill, the river, and the Roman Catholic district.

Sandy Lake is serviced by a Northern store owned by the North West Company Inc. The community is a fly-in community and is linked to the rest of the province by a winter ice road that travels southwest towards Deer Lake and Pikangikum.

Sandy Lake's education is maintained by the Sandy Lake Board of Education, and is

serviced by three schools. There is also an operational Adult Learning Centre, with ties to Confederation College and Lakehead University.

Five clans or doodem are found at Sandy Lake FN: suckers, pelicans, crane, caribou, and sturgeon. The community speaks the Oji-Cree language and uses the western Ojibwe Syllabics.

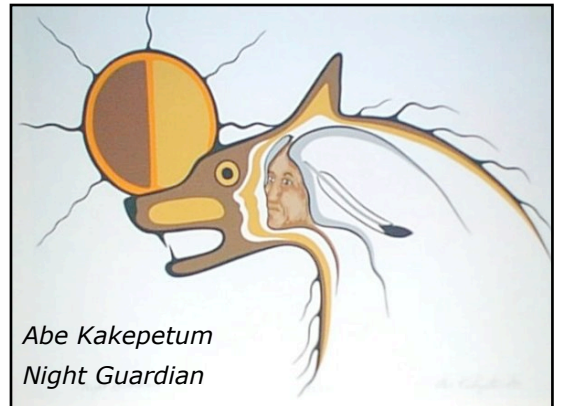
The Sandy Lake FN is governed by an elected Chief, a Deputy Chief, and eight councillors.

Sandy Lake is also famous for the painters: Abe Kakepetum, Norval Morrisseau, and Carl Ray.



Norval Morrisseau

*Shaman Talking to the Animals*



Abe Kakepetum  
*Night Guardian*



Roger Kakepetum - Acrylic on canvas

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