



MANITOBA
FIRST NATIONS
EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE



TEACH FOR **FIRST NATIONS**

Manitoba 
First Nations Education
Resource Centre Inc.

SAKASTEW SCHOOL

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre Inc. is guided by the following vision and mission statements:

VISION

Support First Nations to develop and implement a comprehensive holistic educational system inclusive of First Nations languages, world views, values, beliefs, and traditions with exemplary academic standards, under First Nation jurisdiction.

MISSION

To help First Nations improve education for all learners to achieve: ***mino-pimatisiwin.***

Cree, Ojibwe, Ojibwe-Cree

To help First Nations improve education for all learners to achieve: ***honso aynai.***

Dene

To help First Nations improve education for all learners to achieve: ***tokadakiya wichoni washte.***

Dakota

WELCOME



On behalf of the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC) Board of Directors, I am pleased to present you with this Sakastew school information package. I extend my appreciation to everyone involved in gathering and providing information to make this project possible.

Teaching at Sakastew school will provide you with a unique and valuable career, as well as many new life opportunities. The Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre is excited to work with you as you begin a new journey in your teaching career.

Ekosani,

Chief Clarence Easter
Chemawawin Cree Nation
Chairperson | Board of Directors



On behalf of the MFNERC, we are excited to share this information package with teachers who are interested in joining us to work with First Nations students in Manitoba.

This information package aims to connect motivated and knowledgeable teachers to our innovative school system. This particular package highlights the many benefits of working with the community of Pukatawagan Cree Nation and the opportunities available at Sakastew school.

We hope to hear from you soon, and look forward to answering any questions you have about the exciting career opportunities available.

Ekosani,

Charles Cochrane
Ebb and Flow First Nation
Executive Director | Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre



"Pukatawagan is full of great nature and friendly people who are very welcoming. Everyone here is always eager to get to know you, willing to show people around or take them fishing and hunting." - Doris Castel

"For new teaching graduates, Sakastew School is a very good opportunity to start a career in education."

- Teacher at Sakastew School

"It's hard not to love our children. They're all friendly and respectful, and each of them have their own story to tell." - Community Member

"It's so rewarding to see my students graduate and move onto post-secondary education." - Teacher at Sakastew School

TESTIMONIALS



SURROUNDING LAND

Where is Pukatawagan Cree Nation?

Pukatawagan is a First Nations community about 210 km north of The Pas. Coming from Winnipeg, you'd have to travel northwest for 819 km. Pukatawagan is the home base of the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation, where as many as 3,300 people call it home.

This Cree community has a vast traditional territory that covers a big chunk of Northwestern Manitoba. Mathias Colomb Cree Nation is surrounded by three other communities: Granville Lake and Sherridon, both of which are in Manitoba, and Sandy Bay in Saskatchewan.

From The Pas, you can travel to Pukatawagan via train, which is operated by Keewatin Railway Company and is one-third owned by Mathias Colomb Cree Nation. However, the quickest way into the community is catching a scheduled Mississippi Air flight from The Pas. Mississippi Air is 100% owned by Mathias Colomb Cree Nation. Most winters, Mississippi Construction builds a winter road, which falls under and is licensed by the Province of Manitoba.

Service Centres

Pukatawagan has a few essential services available such as a grocery store, a nursing station and a gas station to name a few.

If you ever need something that Pukatawagan cannot provide, The Pas is your best option, 210 km south of Pukatawagan Cree Nation. There is so much to see and do year round, which is why people call The Pas and the surrounding area "Adventure Territory."



Mission statement

<Still need to gather this information>

Language

Cree

Demographics

Students: 526

Staff: 57

Classroom Teachers: 27

Council

The Swampy Cree Tribal Council

Treaty

Treaty 6

Grades

Kindergarten - Grade 12

Temperature Range

Average Summer: 20 °C

Average Winter: -20 °C

(windchill can make it feel -30°C)

Having appropriate outdoor winter clothing is necessary.

School time

8:00AM - 4:00PM (for teachers)

9:00AM - 3:30PM (for students)

Community Population

Registered - 3841

On-Reserve - 2300

SAKASTEW SCHOOL



SCHOOL SPECIALTY AREAS

Special Classes Offered

Sakastew School offers a Cree-language learning class and land-based learning classes for grades 1 – 12 to teach students how to live off the land and hunt for food. In the near future, Sakasatew will also offer a music class to teach our students how to play various instruments.

Events

Pukatawagan hosts plenty of community hunts, numerous fishing competitions, and a variety of cultural events throughout the year. Our most popular event is the Mississippi Summer Games, where talent nights, jigging competitions, and other activities are celebrated with the local people throughout the week.

Competitions

The school competes in various sports such as volleyball, basketball, hockey, and others with surrounding communities. Pukatawagan also has land-based competitions within the community. Additionally, the school attends the annual MFNERC Science Fair.



FACILITIES

Student Facilities

Sakastew School has a variety of facilities and tools to help guide our students through their educational journey.

Outside of its numerous classrooms, Sakastew School has a daycare, a library, a computer lab, a science lab, a gym, a workout area, a land-based class, a photography room, an automotive shop class, and an industrial arts room.

Teacher Facilities

All teachers have access to all student facilities as well as having a staff lounge where teachers relax and socialize with each other when they're not with students.

Renovations/Upgrades

The council is currently in the middle of negotiating for a new middle school. A big priority moving forward is to increase the broadband package with Xplornet, which will help increase the download and upload speed limits of the internet.

WiFi/ Cellular Service

The community relies on Xplornet for all cellular and internet services. New residents are encouraged to look into personal plans with Xplornet to stay connected with cellular and internet services.



TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

What is Sakastew Looking for in a Teacher?

Teacher candidates must be eligible to teach in Manitoba and have obtained Manitoban certification so the students can be accredited. Our teachers must have patience and be willing to adapt to any kind of situation, whether it's the first or last day of class. From time to time, our teachers must be able to handle conflicts or discipline students when needed.

It's important that our teachers are culturally aware and respect our First Nations culture. The culture shock can be a little overwhelming at first, but Pukatawagan is filled with friendly and accepting people that will help integrate you into the community. We recommend that candidates take initiative to learn First Nations culture prior to arriving to the community.

The ideal candidate for a teaching position should be willing to work for at least a full school year. Additional opportunities and incentives are provided to teachers who remain with the school for the long term.

Average Day

8:00am

Start the day around 8:00am (as students arrive around 8:30am)

9:00am

Meet the students at 9:00am to teach various subjects

12:00pm

Teachers and students have a one-hour lunch break

Teachers may go home or stay at school for lunch

3:00pm

Classes end at 3:00pm for the younger students

4:00pm

Classes end progressively later for older students, until school closes at 4:00pm

Other Responsibilities

Sakastew highly encourages teachers to take part in extracurricular activities. From time to time, teachers may have to tutor some of the students.



TEACHER ACCOMMODATIONS

Teacherage Rentals

Teacherages are available for rent. They are regularly maintained every couple years to update the furniture and to ensure pristine condition.

Amenities

You have access to a washer, dryer, bathroom, furniture, kitchen, dishes and silverware, heating, hot water, stove, oven, cooking basics, microwave, deep freeze, and refrigerator. Tenants are responsible for bringing toiletries and bedding.

Rent

The rent for the teacherage is \$240/month, which is deducted from your bi-weekly pay cheque. The \$240 fee can be split between multiple pay cheques if needed.

Distance from the School

The teacherages are a 5-minute walk from the school.

Pet Friendly

Yes

WiFi/Cellular Service

The school is in the process of getting satellite for each unit. WiFi is tentatively being worked on as part of the satellite service.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Highlights

Pukatawagan Cree Nation is a nature lover's dream. With its untouched land and its unpolluted air, Pukatawagan is stunningly beautiful. This is a hunter's paradise, where you can hunt for animals such as moose, beaver, ducks, rabbits, and more, and fish for pickerel and pike. For people with young children, Pukatawagan has launched a brand new youth drop-in centre for kids to enjoy.

If you're not the type to fish or hunt, Pukatawagan has a community garden that you can harvest for traditional medicinal purposes. Your creativity prevents you from boredom.

Community Life

Members of the community partake in a variety of nature activities such as hiking, running, fishing, and hunting because of the exceptional surrounding land. Numerous cultural activities are hosted throughout the year as well. If you want to venture outside of the community, the residents often visit Sandy Bay in Saskatchewan, or The Pas, Granville Lake, and Sherridon in Manitoba.

COMMUNITY LIFE AND GALLERY



Services

Pukatawagan has a number of services it offers its residents. First and foremost, it has a nursing station and a child and family services agency field office. Mathias Colomb First Nation Health Authority is affiliated with the Cree Nation Tribal Health Centre in The Pas. They regularly visit us (and other First Nation communities in the Swampy Cree Tribal Council Region) to provide health services.

On top of that, First Nations safety officers are stationed in the community, and the RCMP also conduct regular visits. Additionally, Pukatawagan has a grocery store, a gas station, a youth centre, and a soon-to-be general store within the community.

Jordan's Principle also resides in the community to help First Nations children receive government funding. To further one's education, University College of the North provides post-secondary education to residents seeking higher learning.



COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Band Office

Phone: 204-553-2089

Fax: 204-553-2089

Education Authority

Phone: 204-553-2163

Fax: 204-553-2225

Health Centre

Phone: 204-342-2033

Fax: 204-342-2319

RCMP

<unknown>

School

Phone: 204-553-2163

Fax: 204-553-2225

Fire Hall

<unknown>



100-1200 Portage Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 0T5

Phone: (204) 594-6507 | **Fax:** (204) 775-7457

Toll Free: (866) 319- 4857 | **Thompson Toll Free:** (877) 506-1568

www.mfnerc.org

For Employment Opportunities Please Contact:

Human Resources

Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre Inc.
2-1100 Waverley Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 3X9

Email: hr@mfnerc.com | **Fax:** 204.942.2490

www.mfnerc.org/employment

For More Information Visit:

www.teachforfirstnations.com

Established by
Manitoba
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