



## AREA 1 - SOUTH INDIAN LAKE / O-PIPON-NA-PIWIN CREE NATION



**Traditional community name:**

Cree: O-Pipon-Na-Piwin (Winter Camp)



**Population:**

Approximately 1,100



**School:**

Thunderbird School



**Treaty territory:**

Treaty 5



**Indigenous Language(s):**

Rocky Cree  
(Th-Dialect/Neethowiwin)



**Average Temperatures:**

January	July
High -18°C	High 16°C
Low -27°C	Low 6°C



**Location:**

1095 km northwest of Winnipeg and 327 km from Thompson



**Access:**

Gravel, all-weather road from Thompson and by air via Perimeter Airlines

### THUNDERBIRD SCHOOL

**Grades:** Nursery to Grade 10

**Enrollment:** Approximately 250

**Staff:** 45

Frontier School Division is known for friendly people, cultural diversity, and the natural beauty of Northern Manitoba.

We are committed to the success of all students and believe that quality, inclusive education includes Indigenous perspectives, local language(s) and cultural programming. Providing meaningful, appropriate, and locally relevant education is a shared responsibility of all staff members.



### Teacherages

There are 19 teacherages, 6 of which are side-by-sides (duplexes). These 1- to 3-bedroom homes are equipped with a stove, fridge, washer, and dryer. Frontier School Division subsidizes rental fees and provides maintenance. Tenants can have pets.

### PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHT

Thunderbird school programs include Cree Language, Expanded Options, and Adult Education. Students also have opportunities to participate in cultural activities, such as the annual Mistikamik Festival (March) and Heritage Days (June). Every December, the South Indian Lake Winter Fun Day is organized by a community member to raise funds towards a post-secondary bursary for local students.

### About the Community

The traditional territories of the Rocky Cree of South Indian Lake follow the Churchill River System from Churchill Lake in northern Saskatchewan to Hudson Bay near the community of Churchill, Manitoba. These traditional territories also continue eastward along the Burntwood River to the town of Thompson.

Today, the local economy depends primarily on commercial fishing and employment at the school and First Nation. Local amenities include a Northern store located just steps from the school and a Health Complex.

**Frontier School Division spans nearly 75% of the province and is organized into 5 Areas.**



### Frontier School Division Contacts

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