



AREA 2 – GRAND RAPIDS / MISIPAWISTIK CREE NATION



Traditional community name:
Misipawistik
(Rushing Rapids)



Population:
Approximately 270 residents in the community of Grand Rapids and 716 on-reserve members of Misipawistik Cree Nation



School:
Grand Rapids School



Access:
Paved, all-weather road from Winnipeg



Indigenous Language(s):
Swampy Cree
(N-Dialect/Ininimowin)



Treaty territory:
Treaty 5



Location:
On the northwestern shore of Lake Winnipeg, approximately 450 km north of Winnipeg



Average Temperatures:

January	July
High -16°C	High 26°C
Low -27°C	Low 12°C

GRAND RAPIDS SCHOOL

Grades: Nursery to Grade 12
Enrollment: Approximately 430
Staff: Approximately 60

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 14 teacherages located within 1 km of the school. Most are 3-bedroom detached homes, however, there is also a 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom mobile home. Frontier School Division subsidizes rental fees and provides maintenance.

All teacherages are equipped with a fridge, stove, washer and dryer and up to two pets are allowed. Cell service and wireless high-speed internet are available but must be arranged and paid for by the tenant.

PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHT

The school provides daily Cree language programming for grades N to 8 as well as Cree language courses for grades 10 to 12. An annual event unique to Grand Rapids School called “Ati-Pimitisaya Nimeskanaw” (Follow My Road) brings school alumni back to make presentations on their education and career journeys to grade 7 to 9 students. A new Wrap Around Program connects school staff, local health and wellness organizations, and other community services to work collaboratively in providing holistic and coordinated supports to students and their families. Related school programming includes Pimatiswin (“Being Good”) in which students receive positive reinforcements when observed demonstrating kindness and other good behaviours. Land-based learning involves local Elders/Knowledge Keepers who teach students about the seasons, traditional foods harvested at those times, and other culturally relevant information. Suspended during the pandemic, but returning for the 2022-2023 school year are culture camps for students and monthly feasts for Elders at the school.

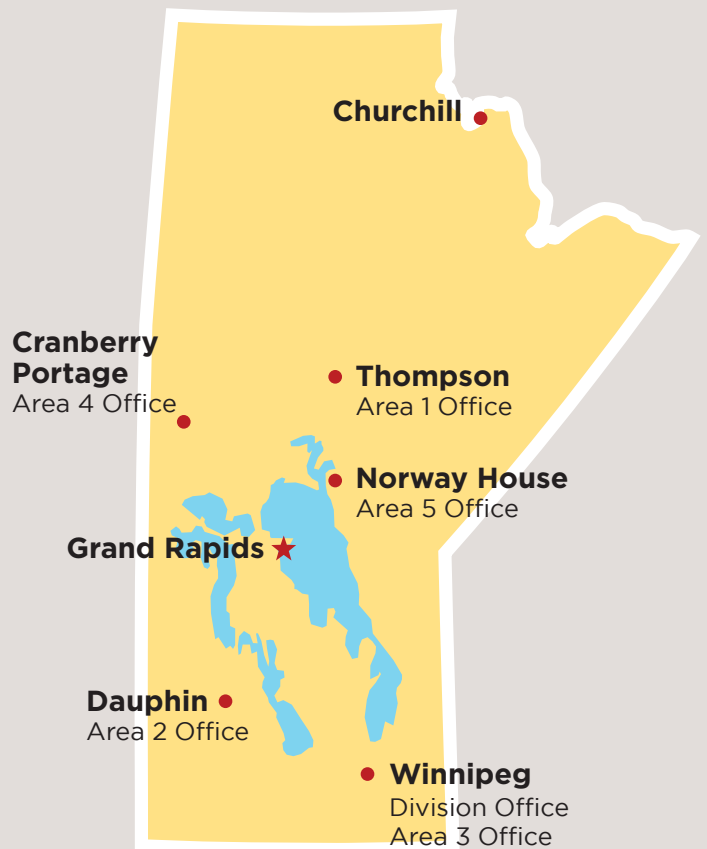
About the Community

The traditional lands of Misipawistik Cree Nation follow the South Saskatchewan River. Traditionally, the people of this area refer to themselves as the namēwi nēhinaw ininiwak (Sturgeon Cree people).

The settlement of Grand Rapids was established in 1877, two years after the signing of Treaty 5. However, the rapids referenced in both the Cree and English community names ceased to exist with the construction of the Grand Rapids Dam in the 1960s.

The local economy today is primarily in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting. Amenities in the area include grocery and convenience stores, gas bars, and restaurants.

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



Frontier School Division Contacts

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